

<b>MEETING</b>	COUNCIL
<b>DATE</b>	1 March 2011
<b>TITLE</b>	Proposed establishment of an area school at Llanegryn by 1 September 2013
<b>PURPOSE</b>	This is a report on the statutory consultation on a proposal to establish an area school in Llanegryn to serve the current catchment areas of Ysgolion Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl. This follows the Council's decision in December 2010 to close Ysgol Abergynolwyn by 31 March 2011 and Ysgolion Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl by 31 August 2013.
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	To approve the recommendation to establish a new area school at Site 1 Llanegryn
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Iwan Trefor Jones, Strategic Director
<b>PORTFOLIO LEADER</b>	Cllr. Liz Saville Roberts

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. At its meeting on 16 December 2010, Gwynedd Council considered a report on a statutory consultation period held in the Tywyn catchment area.
- 1.2. In Summer 2010, a period of statutory consultation had been held on a proposal to close Ysgolion Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl by 31 August 2013 and to provide a new area school to serve pupils who would otherwise have attended the four schools at a site in the Brynchrug/Llanegryn area.
- 1.3. During Summer 2010, it became clear that no pupils would attend Ysgol Abergynolwyn from September 2010, and the Council's approval was sought for a new consultation in Abergynolwyn on a proposal to formally close the school by 31 March 2011. This consultation period was undertaken during Autumn 2010.
- 1.4. On 16 December 2010, Gwynedd Council therefore approved of the three following proposals relevant to Ysgolion Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl:
  - (i) to approve the closure of Ysgol Abergynolwyn by 31 March 2011 and to issue statutory notices to that effect;
  - (ii) to approve the closure of Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl schools during the 2013-14 academic year and to issue statutory notices

- noting a specific closure date of 31 August 2013 with the aim of closing the schools formally once the new area school is open;
- (iii) to approve the commencement of a consultation process in accordance with Section 28 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for the establishment of an area community school to open during the 2013-14 academic year on Site 1 in Llanegryn subject to the recommendation to close Brynchrug, Llanegryn, Llwyngwrl and Abergynolwyn schools;
- 1.5. The statutory consultation period on the proposal to establish an area school in Llanegryn was conducted between January 17 and February 14 2011.
- 1.6. This report analyses comments presented during the statutory consultation period and proposes a course of action which the Council may consider.
- 1.7. An analysis of all comments received is produced in the appendices of this report. It was agreed during Statutory Consultation meetings that minutes of the meetings and copies of written responses would be provided to Elected Members through their political groups. Copies will be made available for public inspection (subject to redaction of personal information about individuals in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998) and can be viewed at Council Offices (the Education Department) in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Dolgellau and Tywyn Library. Ysgolion Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl and all councillors will also receive copies.
- 1.8. This report was discussed by the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24 February 2011.

## **2. The Statutory Consultation – January-February 2011**

- 2.1. In line with the statutory requirements and Welsh Assembly Government guidance, Gwynedd Council undertook a period of statutory consultation on the proposal to establish a new area school at Llanegryn by 1 September 2013 with relevant stakeholders from 17 January to 14 February 2011.
- 2.2. A Statutory Consultation paper was prepared and disseminated to relevant consultees in the communities of Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl during the week of 10 January 2011.
- 2.3. A single statutory consultation meeting was held for staff, governors, parents and community members at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn on the evening of 27 January 2011. Minutes of this meeting were taken by Council officers and sent to the schools for comments on 2 February 2011 with a request that schools returned any comments by 9 February 2011. They are attached at Appendix 2.

- 2.4. It was agreed during the meeting that minutes of the meetings and copies of written responses would be provided to all Elected Members.
- 2.5. By the end of the statutory consultation period on 14 February 2011, 235 responses had been received in total on the proposal.
- 2.6. Copies of all responses have been made available for public inspection (subject to redaction of personal information about individuals in order to comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998) and can be viewed at Council Offices (the Education Department) in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Dolgellau and Tywyn Library. Comments have also been published on the Council's website, and individual copies have been presented to all Councillors.

### **3. The proposed area school**

- 3.1. Bro Dysynni Area School will be a community school that will provide primary education for children aged 3-11 in the present catchment areas of Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril.
- 3.2. A capital grant was received from the Assembly Government to contribute towards building the new Area School and to carry out improvements to other schools in the Tywyn catchment area. The project amounts to a total spend of £7.9m in the Tywyn catchment area, with approximately £5.4m of that to be spent on building the proposed brand new area school in Llanegryn. The grant will be available to the Council from April 2012 subject to the completion of statutory process.
- 3.3. The building work was initially anticipated to commence during Summer 2011 using Gwynedd Council's financial contribution to fund the work of the first year. Given the likelihood of delays to the statutory process (including the referral of decisions to the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Education), it is unlikely that any actual building work will commence this year. The Council does, however, intend to begin preparatory work as soon as is practicable.
- 3.4. The Area School is located on a site known as "Site 1" on the outskirts of the village of Llanegryn. (a location plan is attached at Appendix 5). The discussions with the landowner have moved forward, and the landowner and Gwynedd Council have signed an exclusivity agreement in order to secure the land. Five sites were considered on a shortlist of sites for the new school by the Council Board in July 2010, three of which were considered further by the Board in November 2010. Site 1 on the outskirts of Llanegryn was favoured by the Council Board. The Council resolved to consult on a proposal to establish the area school at the Llanegryn site for the following reasons:

- i) It's central location within the proposed catchment-area will limit travel to school times
- ii) On the basis of current information as regards technical matters, regarding flood risk, the greater possibility of discovering archaeological remains and the situation regarding discussions on drawing up an agreement.
- ii) The local opinion expressed during the local discussions to ensure an educational provision in the rural catchment-area of Tywyn needs to be addressed, and the following is also noted in the Strategy - 'Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd':

"We also wish to further foster and develop the links between schools and the local community... [the] key factor in seeking to ensure that the school represents and serves its community".

"We seek to establish a site for a school that would provide education in a rural and Welsh area. In addition to the educational role, the school would have a community role in Bro Dysynni as a community-based resource. "

- iii) It is also noted that the sustainability of Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn, should not be impacted. The need to reduce any possibility of movements outside the catchment-area from Ysgol Penybryn was recognised.

3.5. There were 107 primary age pupils living in the catchment areas of Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil in September 2010, and 94 of them attended the schools. The three schools (Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil) foresee that there will be approximately 74 full time pupils (aged 4-11) attending the 3 schools by September 2013. Considering the number of primary age pupils who already attend other schools, it is estimated that there will be a need for places for 95 pupils in the new Area School.

3.6. It is estimated that a school of 95 pupils will create an allocation that will allow the employment of at least 4 full time teachers. The head will be expected to have around a 50% fte teaching commitment. Considering this, it will be possible to establish 4 classes in the school with an average of 23 full time pupils per class. The new school will provide Primary

education which will include Special Educational Needs education in line with the Council's and the School's policies.

- 3.7. The School will be built to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools standards. This means that the Council will endeavour to ensure that all school buildings, whether they are new-built or remodelled existing buildings, incorporate flexible spaces which can be adapted to modern teaching methods, with opportunities to adapt the available spaces for large or small group work and for work with individuals. The design will also ensure that the external environment is accessible ensuring synergy between internal and external learning spaces. The new learning environment will inspire pupils, staff and learners of all ages through the provision of flexible and inspirational learning areas which can be adapted to meet changing needs. The facilities will provide a range of ICT facilities designed as part of the core design and building processes. The facilities will also provide a range of community activities and space for a range of support agencies.
- 3.8. Admissions to the new Area School are permitted according to Gwynedd schools' admissions policy. The Education Department will be the admissions authority for the school. The Authority operates a catchment area policy and usually pupils attend a school in the catchment area where they live, and where the Authority has made provisions as regards space, staffing and other resources, including school transport. Every school has a defined catchment area and maps of the boundaries are kept at the Education Office or in the individual schools.
- 3.9. The Transport Scheme for the Council's Schools guarantees transport to the catchment area school for every pupil who lives within the catchment area of the school, or to an alternative school if that is nearer to the pupil's home, in line with the requirements of the policy. Any primary age children who live within the catchment areas of the schools in Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril have a right to attend the Area School and to receive transport where the Council's transport policy makes provision for them.
- 3.10. Gwynedd Council will trial a new scheme to provide additional supervisors on buses that serve new Area School. It is intended to review the arrangement after a term.

#### **4. The Statutory Consultation**

- 4.1. The written responses and comments received during the statutory meeting largely focused on the issues outlined below:
  - The basis of and conduct of the consultation period
  - Capital funding
  - Finance

- Location
- Use of school buildings post-closure
- Community use
- Alternative scenarios

4.2. Detailed responses to the points raised are included in the appendices to these reports. A summary of the main issues follows:

### **4.3 The basis of and conduct of the consultation period**

4.3.1 Many responses focused on the correspondent's objection to the closure of one or more of the schools. The consultation on the closure of the four schools has already been subject to a statutory consultation in line with Section 29 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Gwynedd Council decided on 16 December 2010 that the schools should close – Ysgol Abergynolwyn by 31 March 2011 and Ysgolion Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril by 31 August 2013. This report deals with the more recent consultation which focuses solely on the establishment of the area schools which it is intend will replace the four existing schools.

4.3.2 Some correspondents suggested that the consultation period should be extended or re-started. The consultations on closing the four schools held during 2010, and this consultation on establishing a proposed replacement area schools, were conducted in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's expectations as outlined in Circular 021/2009 and in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

4.3.3 Full and appropriate information was provided to consultees throughout the consultation periods in 2010 and 2011 to allow consultees to intelligently consider the proposals. This information included:

- Statistical information which was agreed by representatives of all schools at the Catchment Area Review Panel meetings
- Models discussed during the catchment review process
- The financial impact of the various models
- The potential impact on language, community and equality of the favoured options

4.3.4 The Council accepts that it would ideally have been able to consult both on closing the four schools and establishing the replacement area school at the same time but this was not possible. However, it has provided opportunities for consultees to consider and respond to the area schools proposal as it developed as part of the earlier consultation process and under this specific consultation.

### **4.4 Capital funding**

- 4.4.1 The proposed new area school is to be funded through a combination of Welsh Assembly Government capital grant and Gwynedd Council funding. The Council submitted a bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for funding towards the £7.9m costs of the catchment area project (which also includes upgrading works to Ysgolion Penybryn, Dyffryn Dulas and Pennal) in May 2010. The Welsh Assembly Government agreed to provide £5.5m (70% of the total) towards funding the project subject to the completion of the statutory processes agreed by Gwynedd Council on 10 December 2009.
- 4.4.2 The funding was initially awarded for the period 2011-14, and the Council intended to commence building works during Summer 2011. In December 2010, Welsh Assembly Government officials informed all local authorities which had successfully bid for capital funding for the period 2011-14 – including Gwynedd Council – that the release of funding would be delayed.
- 4.4.3 Council officers sought reassurance from colleagues within Welsh Assembly Government that the funding remained available to Gwynedd Council. Government officials confirmed that the award of funding has been delayed, but has not been withdrawn. The situation remains that the project has been approved by the Welsh Assembly Government in principle and subject to due process being followed. Where statutory proposals for school organisation are necessary and have not been completed, the offer of funding is conditional on the successful completion of such statutory procedures.
- 4.4.4 As and when all statutory procedures have been successfully completed, the Government and Gwynedd Council will be in a position to agree to a contract for the release of capital funding. Once this agreement has been reached, Gwynedd Council will be in a position to begin spending its contribution (£2.4m or 30% of the total project cost).

## **4.5 Finance**

- 4.5.1 Full financial details were provided to consultees - based on 2009/10 budgets – from the Catchment Review process, through the Statutory Consultation on closing the four schools and into this Statutory Consultation on establishing the new school. This information has also been published on the Council's website.
- 4.5.2 The proposed area school's budget is based on the number of pupils attending the four schools in 2009. If pupil numbers increase, the budget will increase. If pupil numbers decrease, the budget will decrease. All costs are included in proposed budget.
- 4.5.3 Some correspondents suggested that parents could exercise their right to apply for places at alternative schools and that this would create surplus

places at the proposed area schools. The Council's admissions policy is described above in Section 3. The Council is obliged to provide sufficient places at schools for all pupils resident within a particular catchment area.

#### 4.6 The proposed location

4.6.1 The Catchment Area Review Panel was presented with information on a range of potential sites in Bryncreg, Llanegryn and between the two villages. During the Statutory Consultation period on closing the four schools during Summer 2010, information was presented on the process of identifying a site for the proposed area school. An initial long-list of 20 sites had been reduced to five potential sites.

4.6.2 Consultees were asked to note their preferred site(s) during the Statutory Consultation meetings in Summer 2010. The sites were:

- Site 1 on the outskirts of Llanegryn village
- Site 3 in Llanegryn village
- Site 5, which is the site of Ysgol Bryncreg
- Site 8 at Talybont between the villages of Bryncreg and Llanegryn
- Site 9 on the outskirts of Bryncreg

The responses received are outlined below:

Name of school	Preferred options
Ysgol Llanegryn	<b>Site 8</b> - 18 priority 1 and 2 priority 2 <b>Site 1</b> - 2 priority 1 and 14 priority 2 <b>Site 9</b> - 1 priority 3
Ysgol Llwyngwril	No feedback received
Ysgol Bryncreg	<b>Site 5</b> - 21 priority 1 <b>Site 9</b> - 9 priority 2 <b>Site 8</b> - 2 priority 3 <b>Site 1</b> - 1 priority 3
Ysgol Abergynolwyn	<b>Site 1</b> = 1 priority 3 <b>Site 8</b> = 7 Priority 1 and 1 priority 2 <b>Site 9</b> = 1 Priority 1 and 6 priority 2

4.6.3 As can be seen above, consultees at Ysgolion Llanegryn and Abergynolwyn in general favoured Site 8 at Talybont, while Ysgol Bryncreg respondents favoured sites within Bryncreg village. Almost all Ysgol Abergynolwyn consultees favoured Site 8 but most indicated that a site in Bryncreg would be their preferred second option.

4.6.4 The Council Board was presented with two papers during 2010 on the proposed location of the new area school. At the first meeting on 27 July 2010, the Board decided that it favoured Site 8 at Talybont. As potential



planning issues had already been identified at Site 8, the Board also agreed that officers should continue to assess the suitability of Sites 1 (Llanegryn) and 9 (Bryncrug).

4.6.5 At its 2 November 2010 meeting, the Council Board was presented with further information on the three sites. It heard that the owner of Site 8 was unwilling to discuss selling the site to the Council. As the site lay outside planning settlement boundaries and within the Snowdonia National Park Authority, officers advised Council Board members that planning permission was unlikely to be secured as alternative suitable sites – namely Sites 1 and 9 – were available.

The Council Board therefore considered the two remaining sites. The Board favoured Site 1 at Llanegryn for the following reasons: set out above.

4.6.6 While disappointment expressed by some respondents at the choice of location is understandable, the Council has endeavoured to be as open as possible as work on identifying a preferred location for the school was completed.

#### **4.7 Use of buildings after closure**

4.7.1 The Council has developed a policy – agreed by the Council Board on 15 September 2009 – on the use of the sites of any schools which close. While Councils are generally expected to secure the best possible outcome for taxpayers, there is also scope to release sites for less than the market value to individuals or community groups who have developed a robust business case for the use of the building and/or site.

4.7.2 Gwynedd Regeneration officers will support individuals and communities who express an interest in using the sites of closed schools. The relevant local area committee – in this case the Meirionnydd Area Committee – will advise the Council Board prior to any final decision being made.

#### **4.8 Community Use**

4.8.1 The villages of Abergynolwyn, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl are served by community centres which are separate from school buildings and which therefore will not be directly affected by this proposal.

4.8.2 Ysgol Bryncrug is a community-focused school. That is, it is one of 8 primary schools in Gwynedd which receive additional funding to support a community facility on the site. The village community hall is located on part of the school site and is let to Bryncrug Community Council on a long-term lease. The existence of this lease does not mean that the Council cannot exercise its statutory powers to close the school. However, if the school closes, the arrangement would need to be adapted as part of the post-closure use of the building. The lease will continue and is relevant in

maintaining the site and sets out the duties of the Council and the Community Council in supporting community provision on the site.

4.8.3 Discussions have begun with the local councillor and the hall committee to find ways of supporting community provision currently held at Ysgol Bryncrug should the school close. There is an inter-relationship between the remainder of the school building and the hall which from an asset management perspective needs to be addressed. This may involve undertaking structural work in order to separate the buildings. In order to facilitate this it is recommended that capital which has already been earmarked for Schools Reorganisation be applied to adapt the present school site with a view to establishing and transferring property of a sustainable size to the community for the support of the present Community Hall into the future if it is decided that Ysgol Bryncrug should close. Furthermore, that any part of the property which is then surplus to requirements will be disposed of on the open market to allow any capital receipts to contribute towards the adaptation costs. If the Committee supports this in principle then further information on possible costs can be provided to the Council.

4.8.4 In terms of the costs of running the building, a devolved maintenance budget is released to the Committee. Gwynedd Council will discuss how best to continue this support with the local committee. Discussions will continue.

#### **4.9 Admission and transport policy**

4.9.1 The Council's Schools Admissions and Schools Transport policies are outlined in Section 3 above.

4.9.2 Sufficient places will be provided at the school for all pupils resident within the catchment area of the new school.

4.9.3 The village of Bryncrug is within 2 miles of the proposed location for the new area school. As a result, pupils resident within the village would not be provided with free transport to the new area school. However, parents will be entitled to purchase places on a school bus which will travel through the village from Abergynolwyn.

4.9.4 The area school will be able to offer a nursery class as is currently offered by the three remaining schools. Nursery provision is non-statutory and therefore free transport does not need to be provided. Again, parents will be able to purchase places on existing school transport should they choose to do so.

#### **4.10 Impact Assessments**

- 4.10.1 No significant negative impact for the proposal is anticipated in language community or equalities terms.

#### **4.11 Alternative scenarios**

- 4.11.1 The conditional awarding of Welsh Assembly Government grant funding is dependent on the successful completion of the relevant statutory processes across the Tywyn catchment area. Changing any part of the proposals would change the business case on which the grant was awarded and may necessitate renegotiating with Assembly officials. There is, therefore, a risk that the grant could be withdrawn.
- 4.11.2 If objections are received, the final decision will rest with the Assembly Government's Education Minister. Should the Minister reject any or all of the proposals for the Tywyn catchment area, Gwynedd Council would need to reconsider whether the remaining schools organisation structure is sustainable. In such a situation, it is likely that the Council would have to reopen the catchment area review process, but without significant capital funding to support the development of new or upgraded facilities.
- 4.11.3 After considering the above alternatives, it is felt that the proposed model remains the favoured option for the provision of education in the Bro Dysynni area.

#### **5. Next steps**

- 5.1. The following recommendation is made having considered the consultation responses having regard to the Councils strategy document *Primary Education of the Best Quality for the children of Gwynedd* and the requirements of Circular 21/2009 School Reorganisation Proposals .
- 5.2. If the Council approves these proposals, statutory notices will be published immediately to establish an area school in Llanegryn by 1 September 2013 in tandem with the statutory notices relating to the discontinuance of Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil schools. Statutory notices will be published in the local press and displayed prominently in the relevant communities. Not less than a 2 month period will be allocated for presentation of formal written objections to the statutory notice.
- 5.3. At the end of the period for issuing statutory notices, the matter will come before the Council Board for the intention to be confirmed. If the Board decides to proceed with the proposal, and that no formal objections have been received, the decision can be confirmed. If formal objections have been received, the matter will be transferred to the Minister for Education in the Welsh Assembly Government.

#### **6. Journey through the Council's Committees**

6.1 A report on this proposal was presented to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2011. A verbal report on the Committee's deliberations and recommendations will be given during the full Council meeting.

## **7. Recommendations**

7.1 To approve the proposal to establish the proposed area Community School at Llanegryn by 1 September 2013 to admit pupils of the age range 3-11 and to publish statutory notices pursuant to Section 28 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect.

### **Background Documents:**

Assembly Newsletter Guidelines 21/2009

Gwynedd Council – Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd

Agenda's and papers of Catchment Area Review Panel Meetings

Statistical Information

Models considered

Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessment

Full Council Report – 15/7/10

Full copies of correspondence received in response to consultation

Copies are available for all to view on the Council Website, in Education Department Area Offices (Caernarfon, Dolgellau, Pwllheli) and Tywyn Library and for Council Members – copies for Political Groups and in Members Lounge.

**APPENDIX 1  
STATUTORY CONSULTATION PAPER**

**GWYNEDD COUNTY COUNCIL**

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW AREA SCHOOL IN LLANEGRYN  
TO SERVE THE COMMUNITIES OF  
ABERGYNOLWYN, BRYNCRUG, LLANEGRYN AND LLWYNGWRIL  
OPERATIONAL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION PAPER**

**1. Background to the proposal**

- 1.1 This consultation is held on the proposal to establish new Community Area School to serve the communities of Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril.
- 1.2 If the proposal is agreed, the new school will open on 1 September 2013.
- 1.3 There was a period of statutory consultation on proposals to close schools in Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril. Gwynedd Council took the decision on 16 December 2010 to approve the publication of statutory notices to close the 4 schools.
- 1.4 A successful bid was made to the Welsh Assembly Government during the Summer 2010 for capital funding to develop a new Area School to serve Bro Dysynni and to carry out new improvements to modernise the rest of the schools in the catchment area.
- 1.5 This consultation is held with pupils, parents, governors and staff of the schools in Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril as well as nearby schools and other stakeholders.
- 1.6 The statutory consultation is held until February 14, 2011. Details for submitting responses to the consultation are at the end of this document.
- 1.7 It is intended to present a report on the result of this consultation to the Gwynedd Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2011 and to the full Council on 1 March 2011.

**2. The Area School**

- 2.1 Bro Dysynni Area School will be a community school that will provide primary education for children aged 3-11 in the present catchment areas of Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril.

2.2 A capital grant was received from the Assembly Government to contribute towards building the new Area School and to carry out improvements to other schools in the Tywyn catchment area. The grant will be available to the Council from April 2012 subject to the completion of statutory notices.

2.3 The building work is anticipated to commence during Summer 2011 using Gwynedd Council's financial contribution to fund the work of the first year.

2.4 The Area School is located on a site known as "Site 1" on the outskirts of the village of Llanegryn. The discussions with the landowner have moved forward, and the landowner and Gwynedd Council have signed a selective agreement in order to purchase the land. Five sites were considered on a shortlist of sites for the new school by the Council Board in July 2010, three of which were considered further by the Board in November 2010. Site 1 on the outskirts of Llanegryn was favoured by the Council Board because it's central to the new catchment-area and the following reasons:

i) On the basis of current information as regards technical matters, regarding flood risk, the greater possibility of discovering archaeological remains and the situation regarding discussions on drawing up an agreement.

ii) The local wish expressed during the local discussions to ensure an educational provision in the rural catchment-area of Tywyn needs to be addressed, and the following is also noted in the Strategy - 'Primary Education of the Highest quality for Children in Gwynedd':

"We also wish to further foster and develop the links between schools and the local community... [the] key factor in seeking to ensure that the school represents and serves its community".

We seek to establish a site for a school that would provide education in a rural and Welsh area. In addition to the educational role, the school would have a community role in Bro Dysynni as a community-based resource.

iii) It is also noted that the sustainability of Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn, should not be impacted. The need to reduce any possibility of movements outside the catchment-area from Ysgol Penybryn.

- 2.5 There were 107 primary age pupils living in the catchment areas of Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil in September 2010, and 94 of them attended the schools. The three schools (Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil) foresee that there will be approximately 74 full time pupils (aged 4-11) attending the 3 schools by September 2013. Considering the number of primary age pupils who already attend other schools, it is estimated that there will be a need for places for 95 pupils in the new Area School.
- 2.6 It is estimated that a school of 95 pupils will create an allocation that will allow the employment of at least 4 full time teachers. The head will be expected to teach around half the time. Considering this, it will be possible to establish 4 classes in the school with an average of 23 full time pupils per class. The new school will provide Primary education which will include Special Educational Needs education in line with the Council's and the School's policies.
- 2.7 The School will be built to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools standards. This means that the Council will endeavour to ensure that all school buildings, whether they are new-built or remodelled existing buildings, incorporate flexible spaces which can be adapted to modern teaching methods, with opportunities to adapt the available spaces for large or small group work and for work with individuals. The design will also ensure that the external environment is accessible ensuring synergy between internal and external learning spaces. The new learning environment will inspire pupils, staff and learners of all ages through the provision of flexible and inspirational learning areas which can be adapted to meet changing needs. The facilities will provide a range of ICT facilities designed as part of the core design and building processes. The facilities will also provide a range of community activities and space for a range of support agencies.
- 2.8 Admissions to the new Area School are permitted according to Gwynedd schools' admissions policy. The Education Department will be the admissions authority for the school. The Authority operates a catchment area policy and usually pupils attend a school in the catchment area where they live, and where the Authority has made provisions as regards space, staffing and other resources, including school transport. Every school has a defined catchment area and maps of the boundaries are kept at the Education Office or in the individual schools.
- 2.9 The Transport Scheme for the Council's Schools guarantees transport to the catchment area school for every pupil who lives within the catchment area of the school, or to an alternative school if that is nearer to the pupil's home, in line with the requirements of the policy. Any primary age children who live within the catchment areas of the schools in Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriil have a right to attend the Area School and to get transport, according to the Council's transport policy.

- 2.10 Gwynedd Council will trial a new scheme to provide additional supervisors on buses that serve new Area School. It is intended to review the arrangement after a term.

### **3 What would be the effect of this proposal?**

- 3.1 Bro Dysynni Area School would open on Site 1 on the outskirts of the village of Llanegryn on 1 September 2013.
- 3.2 Children in the catchment area of the new school would have 3 options when choosing schools, that is:
- attend Bro Dysynni Area School
  - attend another school if that school is closer to their home than Bro Dysynni Area School
  - make an application as an outside-catchment area pupil to another school if there is space in an alternative school
- 3.3 The Transport Scheme for the Council's Schools guarantees transport to the catchment area school for every pupil who lives within the catchment area of the school, or to an alternative school if that is nearer to the pupil's home, in line with the requirements of the policy.
- 3.4 The future of the sites and buildings of the present four schools will be considered in the context of any covenants that exist regarding the use of the sites and according to the policy agreed by the Board of Gwynedd Council on 15 September 2009 on the disposal of school sites.
- 3.5 Any child aged 3 years has a statutory right to 10 hours of nursery provision in a nursery or school. It is intended to provide nursery education in the new Area School.

### **4 Staffing**

- 4.1 Gwynedd Council has developed a detailed staffing policy in conjunction with the Trades Unions and heads. The policy will be the basis for any redundancies that arise from this proposal. Clear and open communication will be core to the successful operation of any proposals.
- 4.2 Staffing the Area School will be a matter for its Governing Body. However, the Council suggests that Bro Dysynni Area School should try to ringfence jobs that arise from operating the new school for teachers who are working within the 4 schools in the first instance, and then in other schools in the Tywyn area.

### **5 Next steps**



5.1 A statutory consultation meeting will be held at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn on **27 January 2011**. An opportunity is afforded to staff, parents, governors, pupils and other stakeholders to attend. A formal consultation is held in accordance with the Assembly's guidelines. Anyone else who is interested in contributing comments is welcome to do so before 14 February 2011. The aim is to present reports on the outcome of the consultation period for the attention of:

- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (24 February 2011)
- the Full Council (1 March 2011).

5.2 After completing the consultation process, the Council will further consider the proposal in the light of the findings of the consultation. If the Council decides to endorse the proposal to establish Bro Dysynni Area School, a statutory notice will be published. The notice will be advertised in the local schools, the community and the press, in line with the statutory requirements. The notice will note the right to submit written objections within two months of the date of publishing the notice. If there are objections to the aim following the publication of the Statutory Notices, then the final decision will rest with the Assembly Government.

5.3 The Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills will consider any objections, the Authority's response to those objections, and any evidence to support the proposal before deciding to approve, refuse or modify the proposal.

5.4 The timetable for the process is as follows:

17 January 2011	Commencement of statutory consultation, which includes a statutory meeting for consultees in Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn, and distribute hard copies of the document to the relevant schools and other relevant institutions in the area. There will be an opportunity for pupils to give an input during the statutory period.
27 January 2011	Statutory consultation meeting for staff, governors and parents of the schools in Abergynolwyn, Bryncrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwrl.
14 February 2011	Close of the statutory consultation period.
1 March 2011	Decision of the full Council on the proposal. If there is a decision to establish the school according to this proposal, statutory notices will be published immediately allowing for a two month period for submitting objections

12 May 2011

Close of the period for presenting formal objections to the Statutory notice.

- 5.5 If there are no objections to the proposal, the Council Board will consider approving the proposal to establish Bro Dysynni Area School on the outskirts of the village of Llanegryn. If there are objections, the proposal will have to be referred to the Assembly Government's Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. The Government usually asks for a period of about 7 months from the date of publishing the proposal in order to reach a decision.

## **6 Purpose of the consultation**

- 6.1 This consultation is held in order to receive your opinions regarding the proposal to establish Bro Dysynni Area School on Site 1 on the outskirts of the village of Llanegryn by 1 September 2013.

## **7. How can you respond?**

- 7.1 The Council has pages and general information about the process of considering the county's schools organisation up to the present time on its website [www.gwynedd.gov.uk](http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk)
- 7.2 Background information, including statistical papers, the models considered for the catchment area, papers discussed by Gwynedd councillors and a range of other papers can be obtained from your school, your library or by contacting the Council – see the contact details at bottom of this page.
- 7.3 A meeting with consultees will be held at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn on **27 January 2011 at 6.30pm**. Notes will be taken of the comments made to be included as part of the response to the consultation.
- 7.4 To submit a written response to the consultation please send your comments – attaching the following consultation response pro-forma to:

Seimon Williams  
Schools Organisation Project Manager  
Gwynedd Council  
Swyddfa'r Sir  
Caernarfon  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Or you can respond by email by sending it to:  
[trefniadaeth.ysgolion@gwynedd.gov.uk](mailto:trefniadaeth.ysgolion@gwynedd.gov.uk)

7.5 All written comments and emails must reach the Council by Monday, 14 February 2011

If you need this document in another form, please contact Seimon Williams on 01286 679247.

## Appendix A Number of pupils in Bro Dysynni 1975-2013

### Derbyn-BI.6/Reception-Yr.6 (Age 4-10)

School	Gwir niferoedd Actual numbers										Rhagolygon schools unigol Individual school projections		
	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	1975-2010 (number)	1975-2010 %	2013 (projection)	2010-13 (number)	2010-2013 %
Abergynolwyn	23	13	16	14	19	19	20	0	-23	-100%	0	0	0
Bryncrug*	79	44	26	35	36	30	26	30	-49	-62%	31	+1	+3%
Llanegryn	25	24	32	29	29	31	32	30	23	20%	22	-8	-27%
Llwyngwril	45	35	28	18	36	39	40	23	-22	-49%	21	-2	-9%
	<b>172</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>-89</b>	<b>-52%</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-18%</b>

Note: The projections of numbers do not consider the number of primary age children who presently attend schools outside the catchment area. It is foreseen that there will be over 90 primary age children living in the catchment area of the new proposed Area School by 2013.

\* The number for Bryncrug for 2010 includes pupils who transferred from Ysgol Abergynolwyn over the Summer 2010.

## Appendix B Financial Information

### 2009/10 Allocations

Ysgol Abergynolwyn	£108,564
Ysgol Brynchrug	£151,583
Ysgol Llanegryn	£127,949
Ysgol Llwyngwril	£139,203
Total of the 4 schools	£527,299

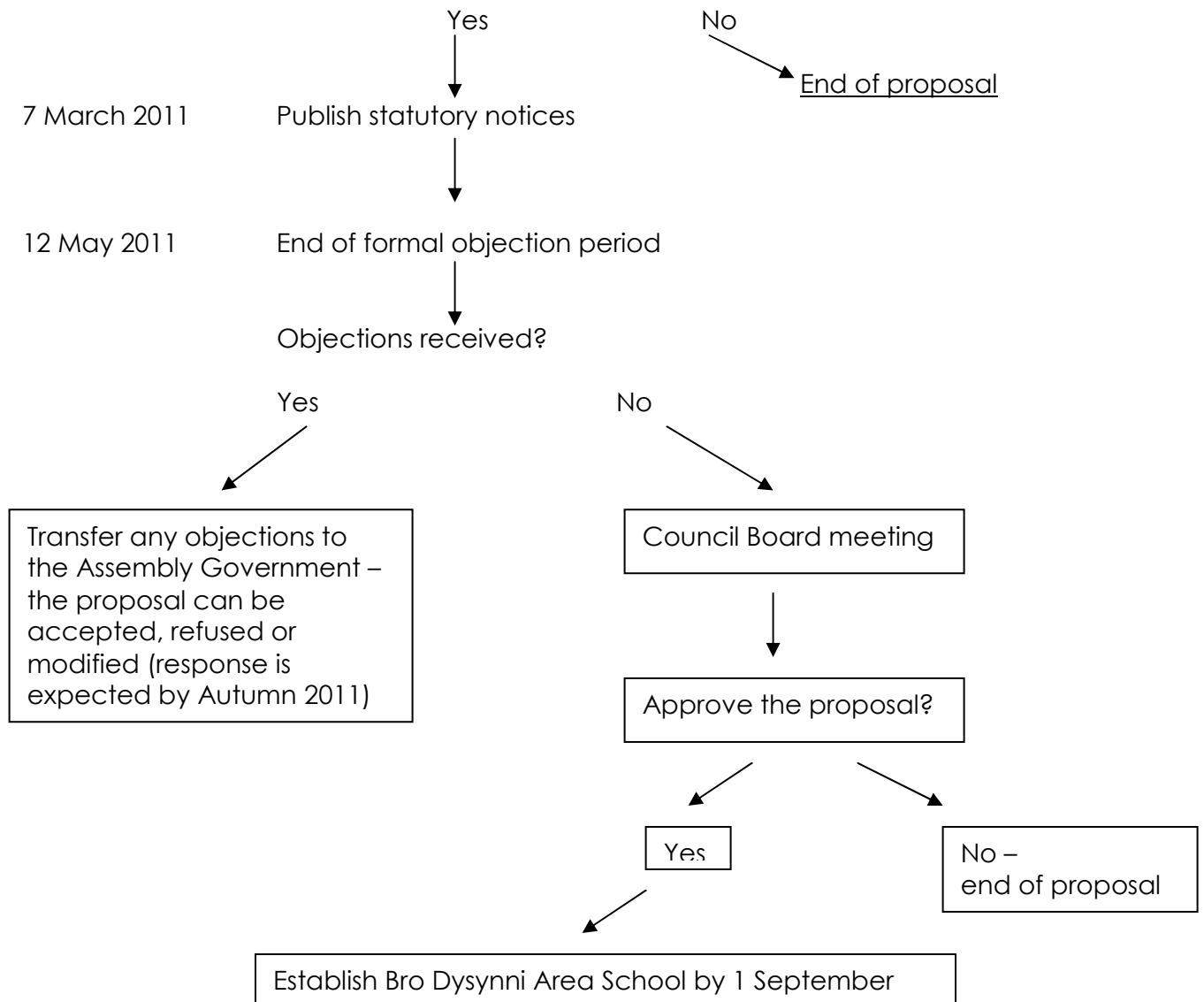
*Estimated on the basis of the 2009/10 allocation 2009/10 to include all the pupils of Abergynolwyn, Brynchrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril*

Bro Dysynni Area School £298,997  
(to include additional transport costs of £64,000, therefore a saving of £164,302 is identified between the 4 schools)

Note that the above is only an estimate, based on the 2009/10 allocations. The above information was presented to the Tywyn Catchment Area Review Panel during Summer 2009.

## Appendix C Timetable

17 January 2011	Circulate the consultation document
27 January 2011	Statutory meeting in Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn
14 February 2011	Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal
1 March 2011	Council's decision on publishing the statutory notices or not



**GWYNEDD COUNCIL**

**PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW AREA SCHOOL IN LLANEGRYN  
TO SERVE THE COMMUNITIES OF  
ABERGYNOLWYN, BRYNCRUG, LLANEGRYN AND LLWYNGWRIL  
OPERATIONAL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM**

Please provide the following details:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I am replying as (please indicate below):

Parent <input type="checkbox"/>
------------------------------------

Governor <input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------------------

Staff <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------------------

Pupil <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------------------

Other (note below) <input type="checkbox"/>
--

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note below whether you agree for your response to be published. Please attach this document to the front of your response to the statutory consultation. With your permission, responses will be reproduced – with personal data such as names and addresses removed – in reports to the Council on the statutory consultation period.

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Gwynedd Council is seeking your views while it considers this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Yes, the Council may publish my response after removing personal information <input type="checkbox"/>
--

No, the Council may not publish my response <input type="checkbox"/>
---

## **APPENDIX 2 CONSULTATION MEETING MINUTES**

### **AREA SCHOOL STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF ABERGYNOLWYN, BRYNCRUG, LLANEGRYN AND LLWYNGWRIL HELD ON THE LLANEGRYN SITE**

**27 January 2011 at 6:30pm**

#### **MEETING FOR CONSULTEES (Staff, Governors and Parents of Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril schools)**

The meeting was attended by approximately 93 persons. It was a mixed audience of parents and children, governors, staff, local Councillors as well as representatives from the wider community.

The Head of Education welcomed everybody to the meeting.

The first part of the statutory paper was presented in order to explain the purpose of the meeting, namely;

This consultation is held on a proposal to establish a new area Community School in Llanegryn to serve the communities of Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril. If the proposal is agreed, the new school will open on 1 September 2013.

It was explained that statutory consultation period on proposals to close Abergynolwyn, Bryncreug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwril schools had been held and that Gwynedd Council had decided on 16 December 2010, to approve the issuing of statutory notices to close the 4 schools. But it was emphasised that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss establishing the new area school.

It was noted that a successful bid – subject to a statutory consultation process, had been approved by the Assembly with the following financial allocation;

£5.5m from the Assembly Government, and  
£2.4m from the Council

It was explained that the statutory consultation period would be open until 14/2/11 and that consultation findings and comments would be presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 24/2/11 and to full Council on 1/3/11.

#### **PRESENTING THE INFORMATION ON THE AREA SCHOOL**

- **The Vision:**

- It was explained that educational provision needs to meet 21stC educational requirements. This development forms part of a plan for the entire catchment-area, and it was noted that the financial investment was aimed at the entire catchment-area.
- The continual requirements, expectations and changes in the educational world were noted and the need to provide teachers with continual development opportunities.
- It was also explained that there was pressure to look at variation in performance, be it at a national, county or local level.



- An aspiration to establish a robust teaching community for the catchment-area, was noted.
- It provides a fresh opportunity to build a provision for pupils and cater for their requirements.
- **The Council's decision at the meeting held on 16/12/10 was noted**
  - Close Ysgol Abergynolwyn by 31 March 2011
  - Approve the closure of Bryncrug, Llanegryn and Llwyngwriol schools by 31 August 2013 when the new area school will open;
  - Commence a consultation process in compliance with Section 28 1998 School Standards and Framework Act to establish the community area school to open during school year 2013-14 on site 1 at Llanegryn

- **The time-table was noted**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 17.1.2011 | Commence a statutory consultation to establish the school |
| 27.1.2011 | Statutory meeting for relevant consultees                 |
| 14.2.2011 | End of consultation period                                |
| 24.2.2011 | Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Meeting      |
| 1.3.2011  | Decision taken by the full Council                        |
|           | Issue Statutory Notices subject to the above              |

**Details of the Proposed New School, Budget and Class Sizes presented**

- Number of children residing in the catchment-area – 107
- Number of children envisaged residing in the area school catchment-area in September 2013, 95
- Budget approx £300,000
- On the basis of the budget identified, the school could employ 4.3 teachers, although this would be at the governing body's discretion. The budget could secure non-contact time for the Headteacher in accordance with the aspiration of the Federation of Headteachers.
- **Transport**
  - Pupils will be entitled to attend either the area school or the nearest school, if that is different.
  - There will be an entitlement to transport to the area school or the nearest school if different – in accordance with the Council's policy.

- According to the figures contained in the rest of the statutory paper, based on figures for 2009/10, transport cost is estimated as approximately £64,000.
  - There is a need to ensure that buses are fitted with safety belts and the Council's aspiration was also noted, namely that there be supervisors on the buses during the transitional period.
- **The Site**
    - It was acknowledged that site and school location issue had proved difficult to resolve, but that a decision had to be made.
    - It was explained that 20 options had been considered at the outset and that 5 options had ultimately been presented during the statutory consultation held in Summer 2010
    - Although a site known as Talybont site had been the preferred original choice, that option could not be proceeded with.
    - Following further consideration, the Council opted for site 1 – a site at Llanegryn.
  - **The investment for the catchment-area**
    - £7.9 million investment for the entire catchment-area with;
    - £5.5m contribution from the Assembly Government
    - £2.4m contribution from the Council
  - **Provisions of the new school**
    - Planning aims:
      - Space that inspires teachers and pupils
      - A flexible learning space
      - Accessible external environment
      - 21stC Resources and technology
      - Space for support/community services
      - A building of the highest possible environmental standard
  - **What will the building accommodate?**

The school could accommodate the following type of provisions

    - Learning zones
    - Practical areas
    - Rooms where groups could convene
    - SEN Space
    - Space for music and drama
    - Gymnasium

- Dining hall and space
- Accessible external areas
- Sports resources
- Nature garden
- Formal and informal play areas

Photos of various schools in other areas were shown so as to provide an idea of the school's appearance.

- **Realizing the concept**

It was noted that the proposed Area School could be developed in two ways. Either specialists could develop that which they felt should be accommodated at the school, or a Users Group could be established to ensure that local views and comments were heard and fully taken into account regarding the development.

- Establish a users group
- Develop the concept with users support
- Input from headteachers, teachers, governors and parents
- Input from pupils
- Detailed design process

**The discussion was opened out:**

Comments and questions from the audience were invited.

*There was concern that the consultation period was too short.*

It was explained that the consultation already held formed the background to this consultation, and that therefore this explains whilst the period is not as lengthy as the initial consultation. The consultation phase complies with government guidelines.

*Would it not have been better to consult on establishing the area school before consulting on the school closures?*

It was explained that this was not possible because of the aspiration not to pre-empt the discussion at a local level and that finding a site later in the process had ultimately proved challenging.

*It was noted that an observer suggested that incorrect information was presented and having discussed with a senior officer from the Assembly, and that it had been said that the funding had not yet been provided, and is released on the ready-ness of projects .*

It was explained that the statutory paper noted in 2.2 that receiving funding was subject to completion of the statutory process. It was also noted that there was also slippage in Assembly funding, but discussions were being held so as to ensure that the intended time-table could proceed. The Government's message was confirmed, namely that the capital grant was available for Gwynedd to implement this project, subject to the completion of the statutory process.

A correction was noted in 2.3 of the statutory document;

It should read; "It was anticipated that the building works would commence during Spring 2012.....". It was noted that this correction would be highlighted to the Scrutiny Committee.

*Officers were criticized for suggesting that the area does not already have a robust community.*

It was explained that it was the educational community which was referred to in the presentation and it was not intended to suggest that the area communities were not robust.

*How are you going to ensure that the time-table is realized, what about obtaining planning permission?*

A planning application will be presented as part of the steps in the work schedule. It was noted that there was adequate time.

*Is the length of the construction phase realistic?*

The work programme can be realized as noted.

*There would be an opportunity to ensure that there was a school for the area if the school were to be located at Brynchrug. Why locate it at Llanegryn, is that due to the distance from ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn?*

Distance was a factor amongst several. During the catchment-area discussions, it had been stated that there was an aspiration to ensure rural education in the Tywyn catchment-area, and this was the goal here. It was also mentioned that an agreement could not be reached with a sites owners at Talybont and Brynchrug, whilst an agreement had been reached with a site owner at Llanegryn.

*How will Members be able to receive our comments? All Members should receive a copy of the comments to read.*

Any comments received will be presented – after extracting personal details – to councillors. Copies of the correspondence will be available at Tywyn library, the Council's area offices and with every political group. Those present were reminded that they needed to complete a form in the statutory paper on observers consent for their comments to be placed in the public domain. It was agreed that a full copy would be provided for every Councillor.

*The strategy noted that the aim was to safeguard small schools, has that aim been achieved?*

It was explained that there was now a consensus that the re-organization process was taking too long and that the uncertainty was undermining schools work. Comments from Gwynedd Federation of Headteachers were mentioned, and their views on the need for change. It was noted that safeguarding rural education had a core role in the proposal to establish an area school at Bro Dysynni. More far-reaching options for the catchment-area could have been proposed.

*An observer noted that the Headteachers couldn't express true views due to the influence the Council have on their careers!!*

*Had any lessons been learnt from this process? The Council were blamed for being very arrogant.*

It was noted that lessons were constantly learnt and that the Council had received a review of the process before Christmas, noting a change of direction in the wake of some of the lessons learnt.

*Concerns were expressed regarding the inadequate commitments on proposed transport provision. Safety requirements were mentioned. Discussions held in the Assembly on developing new regulations on school transport that could recommend placing supervisors on buses were also mentioned.*

It was noted that transport providers would be required to ensure transport safety, including the fitting of safety belts. Any new statutory requirements would need to be addressed as they appeared. It was noted that a section in the statutory document highlighted transport considerations, and previous discussions on belts and supervision were mentioned.

*How secure is the funding?*

The Government is committed to the Funding, this County is one of 13 Counties whose bid was approved, but as has already been explained, this is subject to the statutory process. There is a delay in the funding, but it remains available and expenditure re-profiling is being discussed.

*It seems that nobody is complaining about the current educational standard, indeed it appears that everybody is proud of the standard. How does a saving of £164,000 make sense when it is intended to spend £5.5millions?*

The LEA is proud of the standard of education in the County, but new demands and expectations lead to having to up-date resources for educational provision for this century. The Headteachers request that. Funding is an increasing problem that will worsen. This plan provides a annual net saving of £164,000.

*The transport cost is an estimate, does this include the cost of more than one journey? Will 3 year olds be transported by bus?*

These are the estimated transport costs.

The LEA has no statutory obligation to provide transport for 3 year olds, but as in other situations, if there is scope, further arrangements can be considered. Nursery provision can be provided at the new school, but provision of nursery education will be matter to be considered at a local level.

*How will 3 year olds be transported home at the end of the morning session. Will transport be available for them?*

The exact time of the nursery provision will be discussed, it can be a longer period than a morning. The details can be decided at a local level. It was again noted that

councils were under no statutory obligation to provide transport for nursery class age children.

*Cylch Meithrin Brynchrug will close when the school closes!!*

It was again noted that a decision on the nursery education provision will be taken locally. The 3 schools already provide a nursery class whilst a cylch meithrin is located at Brynchrug.

*Closing Ysgol Brynchrug will mean that there will not be a hall in Brynchrug, and it was suggested that there hadn't been sufficient consultation in the Brynchrug Cylch Meithrin.*

*Brynchrug hall is under lease protection, but from where will the funding to maintain it come from?*

The hall is under lease protection. School closure would impact on how the lease will be implemented, but the Council has a responsibility to ensure that how the lease will be honoured in future, is discussed. The use is protected by a legal document. Discussions would have to be held with the community in the event of the school's closure.

*There is a feeling that Brynchrug has been cheated and misled about the school's location. It is proposed that the process be re-commenced..*

There was no preferred site and no commitment had been made before undertaking background work. Another site, near Talybont had been selected, but despite efforts made, that site could not be proceeded with. A difficult decision regarding location then had to be made.

*The location has caused concern for Abergynolwyn residents. With enormous sadness, the area's residents closed their school due to so much hope for the new area school. Abergynolwyn residents wish to see the school being built but the issue of the location has made things difficult.*

*Have all the costs been considered? Does the available budget contain ITC elements?*

IT elements are included in the submitted application.

*Why could the local Member not speak in the Committees on this issue? The Member stated that she was very disappointed that she could not voice her community's views in the Committees.*

It was the Council's constitution code of conduct that prevented a Member from contributing to the discussion.

*Further consultations should have been held!!*

Many discussions have been held to develop the ideas locally.

*It was claimed that there was inadequate financial information available.*

Detailed financial information has been presented as part of the catchment-area discussions, and is available on the Council's web-site.

*Has the cost of maintaining an empty building been considered?*

In compliance with the Council's policy on disposal of assets, the local community has an opportunity to present a business case for continuing with local ownership of the property if that is the wish, otherwise the sites will be put on the open market. The situation at Bryn-crug is different – it is imperative that a discussion is held there to plan the future of the village hall that is lease protected.

*The current buildings energy costs can be tackled through using renewable energy. Will an Environmental Impact Assessment be held as part of the consultation?*

A new building will be much more effective as regards use of resources and meet demanding requirements of BREEAM construction measures. An Environmental Impact Assessment will be held as part of the planning application process.

*How will the school's design tackle the problem of empty places? It was noted that the parents of Llwyngwrl will send their children to Ysgol y Friog and thus increase the number of empty places.*

*The entire process should be re-started!!*

*The residents of Abergynolwyn, Bryn-crug and Llanegryn have favoured and supported this development. The issue of location has confused matters, but there is a feeling that Llanegryn residents are being ignored in this discussion. We all need to realise that this provides our area with an unique opportunity. Rejecting the area school would be a significant retrograde step. Don't reject this proposal otherwise it will be a future cause for regret. This was the vision at the outset. We must realize that current school funding will not be available in the future, and that there is the possibility that our schools will close.*

**The reminder of the statutory document was presented per page, and there was further opportunities for questions.**

*It should not be claimed that there is funding available – because it is not!!*

As had already been explained, the funding is subject to a statutory process but Government officers have noted that the funding will be available if the statutory process is completed.

*An explanation was sought on school admission age, and concern's were expressed on the effect on nurseries in Tywyn with the changes at Ysgol Penybryn.*

It was explained that a large number of Gwynedd schools could provide education for the 3-11 age-range. It was explained that nursery education providers varied, but that schools were entitled to make such provision if they so wished.

*If the Area School is not developed, what will happen to the funding?*

If the application to establish the Area School is rejected, the Government's capital grant would not be available. It was also noted that, due to the financial climate, there was a high probability that the Council's funding would not be available either due to the Council's substantial capital requirements and the scarcity of capital resources. This, maybe, would draw a question on these plans. However, the need for change would remain.

*Creating access to the site will involve a cost, - where will the funding come from?*

From the identified budget.

*If the school is not established – where will the children go to?*

It is highly likely that in the short-term, the children will attend the current schools, but it is difficult to see how the County can provide the current number of schools in future.

*What if the school cannot open on the set date?*

Depending on circumstances, there is a process where an application could be made to the Assembly to change the date for opening.

*What will happen if children reside within 2 miles of the school?*

In compliance with the Council's policy, transport could be provided, but a charge would be levied if children reside within 2 miles.

*Unless free transport is provided, there is a danger that some children from Bryn-crug may attend Penybryn, Tywyn.*

*Some children reside a considerable distance away, what will happen to them?*

They will receive transport in compliance with the policy.

*Have such changes recently been made in Gwynedd?*

Over 20 years have elapsed since the County made such changes.

*Will the minutes reflect feelings conveyed in the meeting?*

It was noted that minutes had been taken and would be disseminated to the schools Headteachers for comments next week. The Headteachers are asked to ensure that there are copies made available to their governors and other members of the communities.

*What will happen as regards school staffing?*

It was explained that staff appointments would be a matter for the school's governors, but that the Council would encourage governors to firstly offer the posts to staff of the current schools.

*Do the costs include cost of non-contact time?*



It was confirmed that the non-contact time cost of half a week for the Headteacher had been included in the costs. But as already been noted – this would be discussed by the Governors.

*Would a 7 month delay (to await a decision by the Education Minister) pose problems as regards the construction work?*

This has already been factored into the work programme, and construction work will not commence until April 2012.

*A request was made to record the opinion voiced by Brynchrug to reject the proposal to locate the area school at Llanegryn.*

*Will responses presented during the initial consultation be considered this time?*

The initial consultation forms the background to the current consultation, but the nature of this consultation differs. That consultation has ended, therefore, new responses are required.

*Abergynolwyn have decided to close their school due to the hope of establishing the new school for the area. We are currently in a very difficult situation - , we want the school but we recognize that the location causes disappointment. How can confidence in the new school be developed?*

*There are concerns about missing out on the opportunity for the area school. There are financial problems, and our schools could close in any case. There is concern at Brynchrug about the loss of the village hall.*

Work is to be done and discussions held with Brynchrug residents on safeguarding their village hall.

*A request was made to minute that Llwyngwril residents are totally opposed to the development*

*Request a vote before the end of the meeting.*

It was explained that holding a vote was not customary, but so as to respond to the request, confirmation was requested on what was to be voted on. It was noted that it would be a vote that expressed the opinion of those being consulted.

*A vote on the proposal was proposed..*

*An amendment was proposed to cast a no-confidence vote on the consultation process and the plan to establish the proposed area school.*

*The amendment was seconded and the amendment was voted on.*

The vote result was not declared nor confirmed in the meeting. (There was a feeling in favour of the motion in the meeting, while a number abstained their vote as well)

Everybody was thanked for their contributions and was reminded that the consultation period would end on 14/2/11.

**APPENDIX 3**  
**ANALYSIS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION COMMENTS**

**Total of 235 written responses received;**

5 Welsh Letters

27 English Letters (1 chose not to publicise their details)

1 Bilingual Letter

6 Welsh E-mails

26 English E-mails

170 Standard Bilingual Letter (3 had only a response form, without the standard letter attached and 27 refused to publicise their details)

**Ysgol Brynchrug: 196 written responses received**

5 Welsh Letters

14 English Letters (1 chose not to publicise their details)

1 Bilingual Letter

1 Welsh E-mails

5 English E-mails

170 Standard Bilingual Letter (3 had only a response form, without the standard letter attached and 27 chose not to publicise their details)

**Ysgol Llanegryn: 7 written responses received**

2 English Letters

4 Welsh E-mails

1 English E-mail

**Ysgol Llwyngwril: 30 written responses received**

10 English Letters

1 Welsh E-mail

19 English E-mails

**General: 2 written responses received**

1 English Letter

1 English E-mail

Comments Code	Comments	Number of written responses containing the	Gwynedd Council's response
1.	<b>Location of Area School</b>		
2.	Believe that Brynchrug and Abergynolwyn favoured Brynchrug, Llanegryn favoured the Talybont site and Llwyngwril showed no preference. Therefore how was decision made to build in Llanegryn? / Brynchrug came out as most popular in the meeting where parents and governors placed red dots on what they felt was the most appropriate site/ It is only the proposed site that I'm objecting to and not the new area school/	5	Consultees at the four schools were given an opportunity to note their preferred location from a shortlist of five during Statutory Consultation meetings in June 2010. at Ysgolion Llanegryn and Abergynolwyn in general favoured Site 8 at Talybont. Almost all Ysgol Abergynolwyn consultees favoured Site 8 but most indicated that one of the two possible sites in Brynchrug would be their preferred second option, while Ysgol Brynchrug respondents favoured sites within Brynchrug village.
3.	Brynchrug is most logical site, good transport links, land in Council ownership, no planning issues/ There is perfectly good land that could be used on the site of Brynchrug school, and there are several reasons why this site would be more suitable / Council already owns land behind school building in Brynchrug, and there is a field behind this that a landowner is willing to sell, that has no tenancy, flooding, archaeological or planning issues. The building work could be	189	The Council Board considered a report on 27 July 2010 which analysed five potential sites, including the current site of Ysgol Brynchrug. In terms of cost and planning issues, there was little to choose between the sites. The Board decided to favour site 8 but instructed officers to continue working on sites 1 and 9. Reasons for not further considering the site of the present school included the fact that it is the site of a current school and therefore is not a new site as agreed by school representatives, and that building work and related works traffic would exist while pupils continued to be educated at the site

	accessed from the rear of the school premises therefore having no impact on the safety of the children or the day to day running of the school / Brynchrug is a central location / Building on present site or site on outskirts of Brynchrug would not have visual impact		
4.	Building the area school in Llanegryn as it is further away from Penybryn to try and protect them from losing children to the area school is unfair	4	The Council Board's decision on 2 November 2010 to favour Site 1 (Llanegryn) rather than Site 9 (Brynchrug) was based in part on a desire to ensure that the new area school fulfilled its role of providing rural education. Llanegryn is more central to the catchment area of the proposed school.
5.	The village school should be within the Llwyngwril community and not classed as an "area school", that is not a community school unless for those living in Llanegryn.	1	For reasons set out in the Statutory Consultation paper, Gwynedd Council is of the view that the current organisation of primary education in the Tywyn area is not sustainable. The Council expressed its view on 16 December 2010 that it wishes to see the four schools replaced by an area school. The new area school will be expected to act as a focal point for the communities which will form its catchment area.
6.	Concerned about safety issues of new site / Concerns raised due to proximity to a local care home – will there be sufficient assistants available during playtimes to ensure children's safety?	1	There is no evidence or reason to expect this to be an issue for the school. All schools are expect to ensure the absolute safety of pupils. Any specific issues which require attention will be dealt with in the design of the new school.
7.	You haven't got planning permission, have the National Park been consulted? When do you intend to apply for planning permission? What might be the difficulties with obtaining planning permission in this location in the National Park? How long might the planning process take if there are objections? Have you got any examples of suitable school designs for use within a National Park area? Aesthetics – concerns of building in a stunning area/ Why are there differences in	7	Officers of the Snowdonia National Park Authority have been consulted regularly during the development of the proposals for the Tywyn area. The original list of 20 possible sites – all of which provided sufficient area to accommodate the school - was reduced to nine and then five following these discussions. National Park officials have indicated that while there would have been significant issues with regard to securing planning permission on Site 8, NPA officials had no substantial concerns with regard to Site 1. Planning permission will be applied for during the coming months once the design proposals have been developed in sufficient detail. As with any significant development there is no guarantee that planning consent will be forthcoming. However, initial discussions with

	site sizes in different reports? / The small risk of flooding could be alleviated. There is no specific commitment to Area School providing a range of suitable facilities		National Park Officers have not identified any significant issues. The design of the school will be developed through the establishment of a users group and will consider existing examples of best practice. The new school will achieve BREEAM Excellent standard and will of course need to take into account the special characteristics of the National Park. The new school will provide all the facilities expected from a 21 <sup>st</sup> Century school and will allow the Council to build upon the design principles established in the new Hendre 21 <sup>st</sup> Century School in Caernarfon.
8.	All the villages were told different versions about location of the new area school  Bryncrug school already educates 2 of the 4 schools in question. Unfair to expect Abergynolwyn children to move yet again and travel even further  By not agreeing on location from the outset you have created an unpleasant atmosphere in the area.	6	Throughout the Catchment Area Review process, school representatives indicated their wish to see any proposed new area school built on neutral land. Gwynedd Council's decision on 10 December 2009 was to consult on establishing "...a new area school either in the Bryncrug or Llanegryn area". The Statutory Consultation on closing the four schools in Summer 2010 provided a range of five potential sites. While disappointment expressed by some respondents, particularly from the Bryncrug area, at the choice of location is understandable, the Council has endeavoured to be as open as possible as work on identifying a preferred location for the school was completed. At this stage discussions with the National Park Officers have not identified substantial problems with site 1.
9.	New area school is needed and would be excellent for our children / Would favour the status quo but accept that it is not sustainable, New build is the only answer, with new facilities and technology	8	While there is disagreement on the location of an area school, there appears to be a fundamental agreement within three of the affected communities that the future of education in Bro Dysynni area lies with a rural area school.
10.	Glad the proposed site is on the outskirts of Llanegryn / pleased the current site of Bryncrug school is not being considered as it is not a neutral site and it is not a brand new school / would prefer the school to be at Site 8 (Talybont) but fear there is a risk the area school could be lost if agreement is not reached on the site / Llanegryn is central to	6	Once it became apparent that Site 8 at Talybont was not a realistic option, the choice lay between sites in or on the outskirts of the villages of Bryncrug and Llanegryn. One of the reasons the Council Board decided to favour Site 9 as the Bryncrug option rather than the current school site was for reasons of neutrality – in other words, while it is not possible to secure a site outside any of the four affected villages, the Board favoured a location which is not already a school site.

	the new catchment area		
11.	It is essential that splits which have emerged between the villages are repaired; must move on Support for area school, will provide stable education in the area for many, many years to come. Provides benefits for children and staff. Worry about future of the area's education should plan not proceed.	1	The Council recognises that the process has had an effect on relationships between the villages. If the Council decides to move ahead with the proposal, a users group will be established to design the new area school. A series of activities will be provided to bring pupils at the three schools together in the run-up to the opening of the new school
12.	I do not understand what a selective agreement is .When do you intend to move forward with the land purchase and what is your budget?	1	This means that the Council and the owner of Site 1 have reached an exclusivity agreement over the purchase of Site 1 which allows the Council to purchase the site at any time within the next three years. There are guidelines which will govern the agreement of a price for the purchase of the land within that agreement. The budget for the development includes funds for the purchase of the site.
13.	<b>Language</b>		
14.	Llwyngwriil children are fluent Welsh speakers. The school is a contact point for incomers with the Welsh language, where they can hear the language spoken/ Loosing the school would have detrimental effect on the language/ Protecting the Welsh language is a Council policy/ The children receive a good Welsh education in Llwyngwriil school – Estyn report reflects this	4	All four schools are expected to adhere to the County's language policy. The proposed new area school would be expected to implement this policy fully. The Council commissioned external consultants to carry out a language impact study on the proposal which found that the proposal to close the four schools and establish a new area school is likely to have a very positive effect on the use and ability in the use of Welsh of pupils.
15.	What is 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Education? What is wrong with the education my children are receiving?  Llwyngwriil received high accolades in recent Inspection. / Close schools that have poor Estyn results rather than Llwyngwriil / Children are well behaved and well rounded individuals/ Llwyngwriil is a small friendly	5	The Council is of the view that the current structure of primary school provision across the County does not appear to be sustainable, and it decided in December 2010 that it felt that this proposal offered the best chance of securing rural education in Bro Dysynni for the foreseeable future.  Schools in the area generally provide a good standard of education. The proposed new area school would provide the latest equipment, larger peer groups and a wider range of teacher expertise. There is no reason

	<p>school with great ESTYN report</p> <p>No evidence of advantages to education should the proposal be implemented</p> <p>Education will suffer if proposal implemented</p>		<p>that education at the new schools should not be at least equal to that currently provided.</p>
16.	<p>Bryncrug is the only Welsh language pre school nursery run under Cymdeithas Ysgolion Meithrin / Cylch Meithrin has been located in Bryncrug building for over 10 years, you will force us to close</p>	2	<p>Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin-led nurseries are non-statutory but receive funding from the Local Authority to provide nursery education for children from the September after their third birthday.</p>
17.	<p><b>Community</b></p>		
18.	<p>Bryncrug school is officially classed as a "Community school"/ The only village that would make full use of a Community School is Bryncrug/ Good links already with Abergynolwyn community/ Should Bryncrug lose it school it then also loses all its community facilities, its neuadd, canolfan/ Where will all the organisations and events take place? It is essential that the provision of community facilities in Bryncrug is protected How you will help Bryncrug village</p> <p>Llanegryn has a village hall</p>	189	<p>Ysgol Bryncrug is a Community School designated as a Community-Focused School. That is to say the school is one of 8 primary schools in Gwynedd which receive additional funding to support the community facility on the site. There is a community hall on part of the site which is leased Bryncrug Community Council on a long-term lease. The existence of the lease does not mean that the Council cannot implement its statutory powers to close the school. However, 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 and sets out the duties of the Council and the Community Council in supporting the community provision on the site. The community has contacted the Council with a view to beginning discussions on how the community hall would be supported if the decision were made to close the school</p>
19.	<p>No one would use the range of community activities quoted in the document</p>	2	<p>A users working group will be established comprising representatives from the affected schools and other institutions within the area. There will be ample opportunity to influence the design and the location of various services throughout the process. The suggestions outlined in the Statutory Consultation document are subject to further discussion with the users</p>

			group
20.	<p>Concern about families not being able to take young children to the nursery facilities being offered due to lack of transport / If parents have no transport their children will miss out on after school activities /</p> <p>Nursery education will be provided in the New Area School but transport will not be available this is discriminatory against people who don't drive.</p> <p>What happens if children fall ill?</p>	6	<p>There is currently no pre-school nursery provision in Llwyngwriil, therefore parents seeking pre-school nursery provision for their children already need to travel.</p> <p>Nursery class provision at school is not a statutory requirement, and transport to the nursery class at the proposed area school will therefore not be provided free of charge in line with the Council's School Transport Policy. However, parents may apply for places for their children on school buses.</p> <p>School staff are responsible for the safety and well-being of pupils currently and that situation will continue.</p>
21.	<p>Closing the local primary schools would kill our community and our village - Llwyngwriil. Our village would just be a village for the retired, we want young local family's to stay here/ Whenever schools closes in village it dies a little. Since 1978 the police station and all but two businesses have closed/ We are a thriving community due to the presence of an excellent school. It would tear the heart out of the community/ There is co-operation between the schools and community and many project and events held because of this co-operation/ There are 32 unmarried young people living in the area, are these young people going to live locally without the school?/ Prospect of having to be taken by bus to school is enough to put any family settling in these villages/ Llangelynin community council is working to encourage young people to stay by supporting Tai Clwyd build affordable housing/ Threat to</p>	15	<p>Pupils resident in the four catchment areas would transfer to a new, purpose-built school in Llanegryn. The new school will be a community-focused school and will act as a focal point for the wider Bro Dysynni community.</p> <p>Many pupils in the catchment area currently attend out of catchment area schools. While there is significant movement between the three communities (excluding Abergynolwyn since the decision of parents to move their children to Brynchrug from September 2010), 17% of pupils resident in the proposed Ysgol Bro Dysynni catchment area attend none of the three schools.</p> <p>It is accepted that concerns exist that the closure of a school can negatively impact on the local community, particularly in rural areas. The proposed new area school will need to focus on building links with the communities it serves. There are numerous examples of good practice in areas which faced school reorganisation during the 1960s and have maintained strong links with all constituent communities.</p> <p>A full impact assessment has been conducted on the various options considered in the Tywyn area. The report has been shared with</p>



	<p>community activities such as fete /</p> <p>Loss of community spirit In Bryncrug / Removing school will be death of the village/ If Bryncrug loses village hall then the village will be ripped out of the community/ Many organisations will have nowhere to meet</p> <p>Children will lose the opportunity to be educated in their own village environment / Having Ti a Fi, Cylch Meithrin and Primary school in the same building ensures a familiar environment for children</p> <p>. It has already been noted that the opening of the area school could impact negatively on the individual communities. The Impact reports on Language and Community made recommendations .How does the Council propose to implement these?</p>		<p>stakeholders. The report outlines a number of actions which could be taken to mitigate the perceived negative effects of school closures.</p> <p>While a school can make a significant contribution to community life, its main purpose must be to provide the best possible education for it pupils. Even so, the Council has conducted a community impact assessment in line with the Government's expectations. The report has been shared with stakeholders. The report outlines a number of actions which could be taken to mitigate the perceived negative effects of school closures.</p>
22.	<p>You talk about links between the school and the local community and seeking to ensure that the school represents and serves its community. Which community are you talking about? Llwyngwrl, Llanegryn, Bryncrug and Abergynolwyn are 4 rural villages. They are not close together in distance and they are certainly not one community and you have failed to recognise this. How will it be a community based resource?</p>	1	<p>There are numerous examples throughout Gwynedd and other parts of Wales of area schools which serve more than one village and which act as a focal point for the wider school community.</p>
23.	<b>Education</b>		

24.	Estyn 2007 report on performance and new school referred to in the consultation document but not mentioned that this is based on urban schools / new school will not provide better education / children benefit from education in small schools Standard of Education at new area school an unknown quantity/ How will the new area school inspire the pupils? / Good education is provided by teachers and not facilities	7	The 2007 ESTYN report on the impact new buildings could have on schools dealt with both rural and urban schools. Further research suggests that the case could also be made that new schools and larger groups had benefitted pupils in Powys and Pembrokeshire.  The schools involved in this proposal generally provide a good quality education. There is, however, scope to improve educational provision in the Bro Dysynni area and the provision of new facilities will contribute to this.
25.	Small schools only thrive if the children have excellent interaction with the staff present and are often not able to provide the full range of modern educational opportunities which is why new area school has support / I see my children's teachers everyday, any problems are addressed at a personal level / How are parents supposed to interact with teachers in the Area School? / Observations on closing small schools in NY and Pennsylvania noted adverse effect on gifted children	9	It is possible that parents will have less interaction with teachers at the school gates than is currently the case if they do not drop off or collect their children in person. However, this is already the case in a number of schools in Gwynedd and the relationship between staff and parents is very strong.  It should be remembered that this proposal would create a school or around 95 pupils which is not large.
26.	With the total number of pupils attending the area school estimated at 95, how will you ensure that the Head has 50 % non contact time? Will there be adequate funding for a classroom assistant?	1	The estimated budget should be sufficient to provide significant non-contact time for the headteacher, and it is estimated that this should be around 0.5fte. There are national guidelines which require appropriate teacher: pupil ratios and adult: pupil ratios, and these will be adhered to.
27.	<b>Buildings &amp; Access</b>		
28.	I agreed with the Education Minister when he said of the importance of investing in Victorian Schools/ Llwyngwrl building is excellent, with plenty of space around it / Llwyngwrl building is in good condition with large open space outside / Understand that	6	The school buildings are in variable condition – some are 1970s built while others are Victorian. However, they cannot provide the facilities expected of a 21 <sup>st</sup> Century school. Across the 4 schools, it is envisaged that there is a significant maintenance post accumulation, on fire precautions, work required to ensure that two schools meet DDA requirements, and a substantial sum to make the buildings fit for purpose.

	<p>there is problems maintaining old buildings / Llwyngwriil building is modern with playing fields, it's a relatively new building (1960's) / Need to consider cost of maintaining empty buildings and grounds if schools closes, difficult to sell closed school buildings./ Information required on the maintenance backlog, a breakdown of individual schools outstanding work and how a figure of £185,000 was arrived, Same with fire and asbestos prevention / Why is backlog of maintenance less than the figure given in the T3 application/ / Are the children at risk while these works are not done? / Breakdown of the improvement works costs</p>		<p>The Council's Asset Management Plan therefore envisages that over £225,000 needs to be spent on maintenance and health and safety compliance issues at the four schools. This expenditure would not deal with suitability issues i.e. the buildings would not provide 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities.</p> <p>This information has been provided. Figures are revised periodically. The schools are safe, but there are outstanding maintenance issues which require attention.</p> <p>Any schools which close will be disposed of in line with the Council's agreed policies. Local representatives will be offered support in putting together business cases for the purchase of surplus school buildings if that is their wish.</p>
29.	<p>There cannot be any certainty that the school will open on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 however you intend to close the 3 schools in August 2013. If the schools have been closed and the new school is not ready what will happen to the pupils?</p>	1	<p>If the new area school is not ready to open by 1 September 2013, the Council is able to make an application to the Welsh Assembly Government to vary the dates of closure of the existing schools. There is no intention to close the schools until the area school is ready.</p>
30.	<p><b>Staffing</b></p>		
31.	<p>Headteacher recruitment has only been a problem in Llwyngwriil since the consultation process began. The council have also made it difficult for the potential new headteachers to gain the necessary NPQH. They cannot apply to be headteachers without it and there is a shortage of teachers with this qualification in Gwynedd. What are the council doing to help potential Headteachers gain the NPQH qualification?/ There will be 50% reduction on present teacher numbers – how will this improve</p>	2	<p>There has been a recruitment problem in Tywyn for a number of years. The catchment area was identified as the first for review partly as a result of these issues. The Council supports teachers to achieve the NPQH qualification, and a number of teachers in the Tywyn area have applied for or have commenced training for the NPQH. Changes in the national requirements are being implemented which should ease headteacher recruitment issues.</p>

	education?		
32.	Understand there are staffing problems in the area How many people will be made unemployed? There will be fewer teaching jobs / What is the breakdown of the potential job losses as a result of the closing of the 3 schools and the opening of the area school? What will you do to help the people who are losing their jobs?	5	<p>Schools in the Tywyn area have experienced staffing issues in recent years. When the Catchment Area review commenced, four of the eight schools were run by temporary headteachers. One of these has since retired, while a new permanent headteacher has been appointed at another school. However, recruitment issues remain.</p> <p>Staffing the new school will be an issue for the new area school's Governing Body. The Local Authority has suggested in the Statutory Consultation papers that it would like to see the new Governing Body ringfencing jobs for staff currently working within the four schools.</p> <p>There will be fewer posts within the proposed new area school than the current schools. The estimated budget provides for 4.3 full-time equivalent teaching posts compared to 7 today. There would also be fewer support posts. Council officers have been in discussions with Unions and are available to school staff to discuss future options.</p>
33.	Staff increase would not occur should pupil numbers not reach 95	1	Staffing is appropriate for the number of pupils attending a school. Should more attend, increased funding would be provided. If fewer attended, funding would be reduced.
34.	<b>Services</b>		
35.	What will happen to Neuadd Egryn?	1	There are no direct implications for Neuadd Egryn arising from this proposal.
36.	Major cutbacks in bus services are being forced onto County Councils	1	Local authorities are facing decreasing budgets.
37.	<b>Transport</b>		
38.	Bryncrug has a "safe route to school" programme in place / Children want their parents to be able to walk them to school Excellent road access to Bryncrug school, but not to Llanegryn	176	Access to Ysgol Bryncrug is generally safe. The site for the proposed area school would require work on improving access.
39.	Assuming that no inflation of fuel costs was built into the £64,000 quoted let alone the	9	The estimated cost of transport to the new area school is based on Transport Officers' experience of contracts awarded throughout the

	bigger carbon footprint this leaves, I can't see that any coach firm around here would have fuel efficient transport/ Would it cost more with bus fares, fuel rising, escorts, Police checks, first aid; to get children to area school/ Energy wasted on bussing children, and concerns over air-pollution, / No confidence in the transportation figures / Has costings considered need for supervision on buses?		County and takes account of anticipated increases to fuel costs. It should also be remembered that increasing fuel costs impact on the costs of maintaining the current schools. Costs of supervision have been considered in the costings.
40.	Council wants children to walk or ride their bikes to school – how will this be possible if you're going to build an Area School? / No footpath between Brynchrug and Llanegryn/ Main pull for children attending Llwyngwrl school is that they are being able to walk/ cycle to school. Potential implications to children's health if it won't be possible for them to walk or cycle to school.	7	It is accepted that providing one area school rather than four village schools will lead to an increase in traffic and a reduction in those walking to school. Whilst regrettable, this factor has to be balanced against the disadvantages of maintaining the status quo and the advantages of the proposed area school.
41.	How can you expect children 4 years old to be able to sit on a bus safely without supervision, insufficient seat belts, no escort properly/ No supervision nor seatbelts on the buses / No permanent supervision on buses / Who is going to ensure that a 4 year old knows where to get off the bus?/ How are 4 year olds going to put on their belts without supervision?/ Who is going to make sure that children don't make own arrangement to go and play with friends in other villages? / Supervision for a period of time is not good enough / Will nursery be opened all day? What about extra transport costs? Would be unwilling to put children on a bus to	28	<p>The Council is aware of concerns expressed on the appropriateness and safety of schools buses by parents in the area. Consequently, an undertaking has been made that seatbelts will be an essential requirement of contracts with travel providers bidding to provide transport on these routes. The Council has also undertaken to provide supervision on the buses for at least the first term of the new arrangement. Provision will be reviewed at the end of the that term.</p> <p>It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that they meet the school bus or arrange suitable cover if they are not available. The bus driver is not responsible for the children whose parents have not arrived to meet the bus .In some instances depending on the age of the child, the child is able to walk from the bus stop to their home safely as long as they follow the guidelines set out in the Highway Code.</p>

<p>Llanegryn. Your proposal to bus children is potentially dangerous/ Children having to open gates on farm drives/ Children deposited by the roadside on its own when unforeseen circumstances prevent parent picking them up / Long and treacherous bus route / What if parents are late to meet the bus? / Do you think the Llwyngwrl – Llanegryn road is safe for children without seatbelts?/ Road is very narrow, with dangerous bends/ Concern over safety in icy conditions/ No price on a child's life/ Are you going to reduce the speed limit on the roads to ensure safety?/ There will have to be a designated drop-off point at Rhoslefain / Farmer's wives would have difficulty waiting for the bus in busy periods – such as lambing time.</p> <p>Public transport is unreliable/ no reliable taxi service How does the authority satisfy itself that contracted arrangements are safe? Does the council risk assess embarkation and disembarkation points? What is the council's policy on seat belts? What is the council's policy on CRB checks on drivers? What training do drivers receive? Do you use supervisors on school buses? Why is the council not looking at the cost of a supervisor on the bus permanently? For how long will the council continue to provide transport to the area school? Children have to carry things with them for school –</p>	<p>The route has been assessed by Council officers and is safe. The Council's Transport policy summarises the main factors. Individual contracts with individual transport providers specify in detail the Council's expectations. Transport will be provided in line with the policy.</p>
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	instruments, sports gear. How can they carry such items on a bus?		
42.	Is the Council going to change the Arriva bus time schedule to operate alongside the new school e.g. after schools clubs?	3	This is a matter for transport providers
43.	Children who rely on the bus will miss out on after school and breakfast clubs. How does the Council propose to timetable bus services.?	4	Timetabling transport to meet school requirements would be expected of transport providers. Many pupils in Gwynedd are currently transported to school by bus.
44.	Safe and green route exists between Brynchrug and Tywyn	2	The proposal to establish an area school in Llanegryn is intended to safeguard rural education. By law, parents are entitled to apply for a place for their child at any school. Parents of children in Brynchrug may wish to apply for places at Ysgol Penybryn, Tywyn.
45.	Why is the Council not paying proper attention to the financial implications of the Learner Transport Measure and recognizing that the kind of matters that the measure is trying to address should be addressed by the council now?	1	The recently proposed Learner Transport Measure has been put forward by an Assembly Committee. Its recommendations have not yet been considered by the Assembly Government. As and when the Measure is adopted by the Assembly Government, the Council will need to respond. As it stands, many of the steps outlined in the measure are to be trialled in the Tywyn area.
46.	<b>Environment</b>		
47.	Aesthetic impact of a new building in Llanegryn in one of the most beautiful valleys in Wales has not been sufficiently considered / Worried about any road widening / Building itself will be detrimental to the area	1	Planning and design issues will be discussed and will require the agreement of the Snowdonia National Park Authority.
48.	From an environmental perspective it makes more sense to use existing site of Brynchrug school than digging up 8 acres of green fields	2	There are significant issues – including the difficulties of building on a site while continuing to educate pupils on that site – which led the Council Board to favour other sites.
49.	How has the council taken account of its own CO2 policy with regard to transporting	1	A substantial proportion of pupils in the wider Bro Dysynni catchment area already attend out of catchment area schools. For instance, over

	of children both on school buses and in cars? How will Gwynedd achieve and maintain a 20% reduction in transport carbon emissions by 2013 by building the area school?		40% of Llwyngwriil resident pupils attend schools other than Llwyngwriil.
50.	<b>Statistics</b>		
51.	If numbers are declining, let the school die naturally.	1	The <i>Excellent Education for Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy identified a number of factors which should be considered in prioritising catchment areas for review. Many of these – including pupil numbers, recruitment issues, buildings and maintenance, class sizes, use of resources – are significant issues in the Bro Dysynni area. The Council decided on 16 December 2010 that it is of the opinion that the current provision is not sustainable.
52.	School pupil numbers may only be 40 rather than the proposed 95/ Why do Council predict pupil numbers falling for little schools, yet forecasts for the Area School show a pupil increase?/ It's difficult to predict number of pupils attending – there is a baby boom. / The statement of 27% reduction since 1975 is misleading, there has been 122% increase from 1990 until 2005.  Figures reliant on pupil numbers and does not take into account that parents could send their children to alternative schools / Points made regarding the reference towards pupil numbers and budget allocated and that they should be up-dated to ensure transparency/ A need for a breakdown of the 107 pupils residing in the Area. You note that the sustainability of Ysgol Pen y Bryn should not be impacted. However you base your area school figures on	8	Evidence was presented to the statutory consultation meeting at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn on 27 January on the estimated pupil numbers for the new school. In essence, 107 primary age pupils currently reside within the four catchment areas, 89 of whom attend one of the three schools, or 83% of eligible pupils.  The proposed opening date for the new school is September 2013. Based on the schools census completed by all schools in Gwynedd in September 2010 (which provides details on current pupil numbers and projected pupil numbers for a further 3 years), the three schools anticipate that 80 pupils (including 6 nursery pupils) would otherwise attend one of the three schools on that date. Schools are required to provide places for eligible pupils and to provide additional capacity of 10% to accommodate extra pupils. It is therefore reasonable – taking the number of existing pupils, pupil projections, the proportion of pupils attending out of catchment area schools and the need to allow scope for the school to expand - to design the new school to accommodate around 95 pupils. It is on that basis that the application of Welsh Assembly Government grant funding was made.



	including primary age pupils who already attend other schools. There is certainly confusion between the total number of pupils in 2013 and how many places the school is being designed for. How up to date are the council's population projection figures?		
53.	<b>The Process</b>		
54.	<p>Previous consultations should not be taken into account, and "this fiasco" should start again possibly using someone from the private sector to facilitate/ You've lied about so many things. / Unhappy with whole consultation process/Lies and dishonesty which I've been subjected to/ incompetence of Council officers / Figures of costs etc are presented on 2009/10 figures – you are misleading and the public.</p> <p>No one from Gwynedd council seems to be listening to the residents in these communities / Lack of professionalism by officers / Insufficient consultation with community</p> <p>In a meeting last year, Council were not able to answer questions on a finance and statistics – this shows how little intelligent thought has gone into this proposal.</p> <p>Content of consultation paper does not reflect enormity of the proposal / Lack of information in the paper thus a meaningful consultation cannot take place</p>	23	<p>All statutory consultations have been carried out in accordance with the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Welsh Assembly Government Circular 021/2009.</p> <p>The Council has sought to be open and honest at all times. The reorganisation process in Tywyn has been ongoing for over 18 months, primarily because the Council has carried out far greater engagement and consultation that is expected of it by law. Many meetings have been held – both statutory and non-statutory – which have provided consultees with an opportunity to present comments and ask questions. The Council has endeavoured to answer all questions put to it. For consistency, figures presented to the Catchment Area Review Panel in 2009 have been used throughout the process. If the figures were updated, it seems that the savings noted would be higher as minimum staffing protection (safety net) has increased to these schools since 2009.</p> <p>All relevant information has been published, circulated to relevant consultees and placed on the Council's website.</p>

	<p>Lack of adequate consultation with community / The best way forward would be to dissolve the reorganisation panel and the assembly to allocate a neutral panel to start afresh</p> <p>Process has taken too long, its had negative affect on school staff morale</p>		
55.	<p>Anger at Tywyn meeting should make Council think. Vote of no confidence in the meeting conveys the dissatisfaction of local people in the process / Hope minutes of meeting reflect the opinions there</p>	6	<p>Minutes of the meeting were taken and circulated to the relevant schools as agreed with delegates at the statutory consultation meeting held at Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn on 27 January 2011. Comments have been received and, where appropriate, amendments made to the minutes. The minutes are included in this Council report. Any suggested amendments which have not been included in the formal minutes are dealt with in this paper</p>
56.	<p>Cruel giving children questionnaires about something they know nothing about / Questions in questionnaire were misleading / Children taking part will have left the school by the time its in place anyway</p>	1	<p>Councils are expected to consult with relevant stakeholders when proposing a school closure, and children clearly have an interest in this proposal. Schools were offered the opportunity to invite an independent solicitor in to facilitate a session with children or to receive a pre-prepared questionnaire which children could complete under the supervision of their teacher.</p>
57.	<p>Why was planning of the new school not done to a reasonable level before consultation?</p>	1	<p>The Council has worked throughout the last 18 months on identifying potential sites for the proposed new area school. Consultees have been provided with information throughout the process. The complex nature of planning issues within the National Park Authority area delayed the identification of a favoured site. However, the Council Board twice discussed the proposed site during 2010 and in November 2010 favoured Site 1 in Llanegryn. This decision was relayed to the relevant committees before the Council's vote on issuing statutory notices to close the schools. While the Council would prefer to have identified a site prior to the Section 29 consultation on closing the schools, it is confident that information was provided at appropriate intervals to inform consultees.</p>
58.	<p>Council seems to have given NAW</p>	1	<p>A substantial number of respondents from Llwyngwriil have outlined their</p>

	impression that there is local support – this is not true / Volume of objection letters should prove this		objection to any proposal which would mean the closure of Ysgol Llwyngwrlil and have indicated that location is not an issue. However, while there is disagreement on the location of an area school, there appears to be a fundamental agreement within three of the affected communities that the future of education in Bro Dysynni area lies with a rural area school.
59.	Complaint that local councillor has not been allowed to speak on behalf of her ward at Council meetings as the councillor has a child attending one of the schools in question / Rule is meaningless as a member could have any type of interest and the child in question will be in secondary school by the time the proposal is completed / Council reflects extremes it will go to in order to gag members	2	Gwynedd Council has an agreed code of conduct which has been applied in this case.
60.	Will counselling be offered before and after this upheaval?	1	Any staff affected by the proposal have the details of the relevant personnel officers within Gwynedd Council.
61.	A vote of no confidence was cast in the public meeting held 27/1/11. There were only 5 people who withheld their vote and with 93 people present your numbers are incorrect.! We have photographic evidence to support this	1	No confirmation of the number of votes was held, only a show of hands. An informal count was taken. Following comments received from school representatives, no reference has been made in the minutes to numbers.
62.	Why will the council be starting work on the project before the Minister has made his decision? If the Minister says no then money will have been wasted	1	Building work will not commence before any Ministerial decisions have been taken. The Council must however proceed with planning and design work.
63.	<b>Finance</b>		
64.	In the current economic crisis, how can you spend £7.9 million – shame on you / How can GC justify funding of £5.5 million for new area school / proposal is a waste of taxes/ Assembly finance is not secure. What was	8	A bid for funding was submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government in May 2010. In July 2010, the Government confirmed that it had conditionally allocated £5.5m of the £7.9m costs of the overall Tywyn project subject to the completion of the relevant statutory processes. Gwynedd Council has committed to providing the remainder of the

	the outcome of the Council's meeting with the Assembly as regards funding? Councillors need to be aware that the offer of funding is conditional on the successful completion of the statutory procedures.		required funding of £2.4m. Assembly Government officials have assured Council officers that the offer of funding remains in place. The Council has made it clear throughout the process that the allocation of funding is conditional on the completion of the statutory process.
65.	Surplus places are another matter driving this process. The capacity figure for Ysgol Llwyngwriil appears too high in view of the way the building is currently used. I have already asked for the capacity figure to be re-calculated. It is important to note that Ysgol Llwyngwriil does not have empty classrooms. It is very likely that the proposed area school will have significant surplus places as there is no guarantee that Llwyngwriil children and Bryn-crug children will attend the school. They may attend Ysgol Friog and Pen y Bryn respectively.	1	Schools are provided with an opportunity to challenge and amend capacity figures annually. The next annual review will be held in March 2011. School capacities are calculated in line with a recognised Welsh Assembly Government designed formula.  Parents are entitled to make an application for a place at any school. The Council is obliged to ensure that there are sufficient places at schools for qualifying pupils.
66.	Staffing protection costs. The cost for the safety net is equal to the cost of transporting the pupils to the area school. And the transport cost will continue to rise. Estimated Financial savings would be much less than stated.	1	Per pupil spending in the Bro Dysynni area is significantly higher than the County average of £3391. Closing the four schools will realise savings of over £228,000 with transport costs of £64,000 leaving a net saving of £164,000.
67.	Figures in consultation paper fail to take into account the closure of Ysgol Abergynolwyn in 2010.	3	Ysgol Abergynolwyn remains statutorily open. It therefore has a budget and staff who have been reallocated to other schools in the area. The school is currently subject to a Statutory Notice to close by 31 March 2011.
68.	Alternative solutions to the financial issues – such as Green Technology will make substantial savings. This has not been considered	3	Residents of Llwyngwriil presented a report during Autumn 2010 which outlined their view that investing in green technologies could reduce the costs of running the school.  Members of the County's Children and Young People's Scrutiny

	<p>Effect on Carbon footprint due to children having to travel on buses</p> <p>Alternative proposal to keep Llwyngwriil open on a long term basis by community submitted – proposal which would mean a school that provides its own electricity and heating by producing its own energy, WAG urged to consider this option“One Wales One Planet” from WAG mentioned / Feasibility study proposed complies with Circular 021/2009/ What are the requirements of the BREEAM construction measures? What green technologies will the school use?</p>		<p>Committee were given an opportunity to view the report and the report was reproduced in full in the background papers presented to all councillors before committee votes in November and December 2010.</p> <p>The new area school will be built to the highest environmental standard. Efficient use of energy and possibilities for its generation will be part of the design process and benefiting from FIT and RHI will naturally be given consideration. Initial analysis of a proposal received after the closure of the statutory consultation period suggests adapting the school building in line with the proposal would cost in the region of £120,000 in addition to outstanding adaptation works. It should be noted that while this proposal could reduce the costs of heating and lighting the school, the bulk of revenue costs are generated by staffing costs and these would not be reduced. Any savings identified from such a scheme could be implemented at the new area school while also realising significant revenue savings.</p> <p>The proposal does not address some of the key issues which formed the basis for the review of the Tywyn catchment area, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School and class size</li> <li>• Suitability and condition of school building. The proposal would not obviate the need for significant additional investment to adapt and upgrade the existing buildings.</li> <li>• Schools in the area have experienced difficulties in recruiting headteachers for many years, and by maintaining the number of schools this would remain an issue</li> <li>• Per pupil budgets would remain significantly above the County average</li> <li>• Surplus places</li> </ul> <p>For the above reasons the report does not in itself provide sufficient basis to re-consider the proposal.</p>
69.	<b>Other Options</b>		
70.	We do not want the school... no one should	8	There is significant opposition in Llwyngwriil to the concept of closing the

	be even thinking about shutting down schools, but you don't worry in Caernarfon. We want the school to stay in Llwyngwrl. You will not get our school/		school. There is more support in the other communities for the concept of an area school, although there is disagreement over location. The Council is obliged to ensure the best possible educational provision for all pupils, and it is felt that the proposal to establish an area school in Llanegryn best meets this need.
71.	Every opportunity was given in the schools, we enjoyed representing our school in the Eisteddfod and we won.	3	It is expected that the same opportunities will be available at the proposed new school, and that the increase number of pupils will provide greater scope for group activities.
72.	Serious consideration that Llwyngwrl pupils should go to Friog and Brynchrug to PenybrynLlwyngwrl open to change but not closure / Suggestion to extend Penybryn or build a new school in Tywyn for all the junior schools in the catchment area (Cae Rhianfa or Secondary school site in Tywyn proposed as site)	4	A range of possible options were presented to the Catchment Area Review Panel during 2009, costed and discussed. The proposal to establish a system of collaboration between Ysgolion Llwyngwrl and Y Friog was one of these models. It was felt that the proposal did not deal with the issues set out in the Council's <i>Excellent Education for Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy. This option was considered during the Catchment Area Review Panel. The Education Portfolio Leader outlined her belief that rural education should be provided, and that this could best be met by the establishment of an area school in the Bro Dysynni area.
73.	You make reference in the document and in the consultation meeting to the decisions that Governors of the new school will be taking. As a Governor of Ysgol Llwyngwrl and fully aware of the increasing workload and responsibility would it not be wise for the council to consider that Governor recruitment may be a problem?	1	Governor recruitment is an issue in some areas. The proposal would require fewer governors.
74.	The Impact Assessments referred to the ESTYN report of 2003. A pledge was given in June's consultation meeting that the adviser (Dylan Bryn Roberts) would be contacted to ask him whether the contents of the latest ESTYN report (December 2009) had altered his findings. What was his response?	1	The consultant is of the view that the ESTYN inspection of 2009 does not materially affect his judgement as outlined in the language and community impact assessments.

**APPENDIX 4**  
**ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S QUESTIONNAIRE**

The pupil of the school's affected by the recommendations, were asked for their opinions about the changes, the schools were given the choice of either completing a questionnaire, which was created by a children and young people's facilitator or through a session with a children and young people's facilitator

Abergynolwyn, Bryncrug and Llwyngwrl schools chose to use the questionnaires previously completed during the statutory consultation in Summer 2010. On the request of the school, the opinions of Llanegryn pupil's were not presented.

The following questions were asked. It was explained to the pupil that a change could be happening, and it was asked what their opinion of this was.

- How do you feel about this?
- Does anything concern you?
- What are you looking forward to most?
- What are the most important things for you in a school?

<b>Ysgol Abergynolwyn</b>		
	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Number of comments</b>
How do you feel about this?	☺ ☹ ☹	This information wasn't presented
Does anything concern you?	No – nothing worries me about this Loosing teachers This is sad Loosing friends	4 3 2 2
What are you looking forward to most?	New friends New teachers New toys Science Lab New Cook New building	6 1 2 2 1 2
What are the most important things for you in a school?	Good Teachers Friends Play Good Cook Books	7 11 6 4 2

	Good building	3
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<b>Ysgol Brynchrug</b>		
	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Number of comments</b>
How do you feel about this?	☺	12
	☹	7
	☹	3
Does anything concern you?	Bullies	6
	Teachers losing jobs	4
	Not as much playing space	3
	The school too big	4
	The school too big	1
	Concerns where the school will be	1
	Children in large classrooms	2
	Children going to other schools – the school being closed	2
What are you looking forward to most?	New friends	13
	New things / rooms	3
	Everything	3
	New toys	2
	More space to play	2
	Bigger classrooms	2
	Everything new	2
What are the most important things for you in a school?	Teachers	14
	Rules	12
	Friends	8
	Fruit shop	4
	Good education	3
	Play room	2
	Play space and toys	1

<b>Ysgol Llwyngwrl</b>		
	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Number of comments</b>
How do you feel about this?	☺	1
	☹	5
	☹	13
Does anything concern you?	Concern about bullies	No numbers were presented
	Difficult to make friends	
	Going on the bus	
	Not being able to walk or cycle to schools is bad for the environment	



	Our safety on the school bus	
What are you looking forward to most?	New friends and bigger classroom Different place to play New teachers New cook New adventure	No numbers were presented
What are the most important things for you in a school?	Friends Good education Good food Nice teachers Learning ho to read and write	No numbers were presented

