

MEETING	FULL COUNCIL
DATE	12 May 2011
TITLE	School re-organisation in the Berwyn catchment area
PURPOSE	To seek the Council's approval on recommendations of schools reorganisation in the Berwyn Catchment-Area following a statutory consultation period
RECOMMENDATION	Approve the recommendations
AUTHOR	Iwan T. Jones, Corporate Director
PORTFOLIO LEADER	Cllr. Liz Saville Roberts

NOTE:

The contents of this report follows statutory consultations on school reorganisation proposals in the Y Berwyn catchment-area. The report reflects statutory requirements, Assembly Government guidelines and Gwynedd Council's schools re-organisation strategy. This document includes the following:

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Analysis of the comments presented during the statutory consultation period are in the appendixes of this report. It was agreed during the Statutory Consultation that copies of the written responses would be provided for Members. Copies are available for public inspection (subject to editing of personal in accordance with Data Protection Act 1998), they are available in the Council Offices (Education Department) in Caernarfon, Pwllheli and Dolgellau, and Bala Library.

This matter was discussed in the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held 24 February 2011 and the Council Board 15 March 2011.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Gwynedd Schools Re-organisation Improvement Working-group was established in June 2008.
- 1.2 15 meetings were held to discuss a range of evidence, including presentations by:
- Welsh Assembly Government
 - ESTYN/Wales Audit Office
 - The Welsh Language Society
 - Schools and Supporters Alliance
 - Head teachers representing small, medium-sized and large schools in Gwynedd
 - National Association for Small Schools
- 1.3 During Spring 2009, the Improvement Working Group published its strategy *Primary Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd*.
- 1.4 It was agreed that education needed to be reviewed throughout the county, catchment by catchment-area. Clear steps were set out for holding the process.
- 1.5 It contained a list of aims and criteria to be borne in mind when holding the reviews:
- Class sizes
 - Population and pupil numbers
 - The child's learning environment
 - The Community
 - Financial Resources
 - The Welsh Language
 - Geographical Factors
 - Exceptional circumstances
 - Welsh Assembly Government Circulars 23/02 and 021/2009
- 1.6 A range of specific criteria were developed around the above factors. When considering individual catchment situations against the criteria Tywyn was identified as the initial catchment-area for review, followed by Berwyn.
- 1.7 ***The strategy was approved unopposed by the Council on 2 April 2009.***
- 1.8 Proposals for re-organisation of education in the y Berwyn catchment-area are outlined above.

2. Y BERWYN CATCHMENT-AREA REVIEW

2.1 Communication methods

- 2.1.1 Several forums were established to seek opinions as the Education Portfolio Leader developed her proposals, including:

- A Catchment-area Review Panel
- Meetings with staff, governors and parents of every school
- A session held for children and young people of the schools in the catchment
- An extraordinary meeting of the Catchment-area Review Panel to discuss language and community matters as part of the impact assessments
- Wider communication
- County Advisory Panel

2.1.2 It was also ensured that there was written information available to all interested parties, including the publication of all relevant papers on the Council's website .

2.2 *Y Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel*

2.2.1 Y Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel was established during November 2009. The initial meeting of the Panel was held on 4 November 2009. Four further meetings were held on 2 December 2009, 4 February 2010, 23 March 2010 and 12 May 2010.

2.2.2 Representatives –a head teacher, chair of governors and parent-governor - were invited from each of the six primary schools in the catchment-area. Invitations were also extended to the head teacher and chair of governors of Ysgol Uwchradd Y Berwyn, the three local councillors and a St Asaph Diocesan representative. A further invitation was extended to three councillors in neighbouring counties, namely Conwy and Denbigh, as well as the neighbouring schools in those counties. **24 permanent members who represented the catchment-area attended 5 meetings.**

2.2.3 The Panel received and discussed a range of evidence, including a pack of statistics on the area, agreed by the entire Panel as a full and accurate reflection of the situation. When preparing the statistical information, school representatives were requested to present their comments, challenge the contents of the papers and request any further information as required. At the end of the second Catchment-area Review Panel meeting held on 2 December 2009, ***Catchment-area Review Panel members agreed that the statistical information presented was a full and accurate reflection of the situation in the catchment-area and that further requests from the catchment-area to amend or expand on information had been fully addressed.***

2.2.4 Information was also presented on:

- the financial context
- information on national developments including Government guidance on discussing proposals for schools re-organisation and new regulations for establishing patterns of collaboration between schools

2.2.5 At the request of the Catchment-area Review Panel, a lengthy list of possible options for re-organisation of schools in the area, was prepared. The long list was refined to 7 main catchment-area models for further consideration. An analysis of the educational, management and financial implications of every proposal was received at the Panel meeting held on 4 February 2010, and a detailed discussion was held on the advantages and disadvantages of the available options at the Catchment-area Review Panel meeting held on 23 March 2010. The options are listed below:

- no change
- pattern of collaboration between schools in the town of Bala
- pattern of collaboration between rural schools in the area
- an area school in the town of Bala to replace Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools with the option to include Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn in the arrangement
- an area school in the town of Bala to include Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Bro Tryweryn schools with the option of including Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn in the arrangement
- closure of Ysgol y Parc and transfer pupils to Ysgol OM Edwards
- closure of all schools in the catchment-area and establish a new area school in the town of Bala with the option of including Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn in the arrangement.

2.3 Meetings with individual schools

2.3.1 The Education Portfolio Leader and the County Advisory Panel representative (Cllr Sian Gwenllian) visited every school in the catchment-area at the start of the process. The purpose of the visit was to meet head teachers and see and gain an understanding of the situations faced by individual schools.

2.3.2 A cycle of meetings was held with individual schools during the process, during periods between 1-18 March 2010. An open invitation was extended to staff, governors and parents to attend meetings separately. Opportunities were provided to discuss general issues including the specific models under consideration.

2.3.3 ***Therefore 21 individual meetings were held which took up 6 full days with representatives from individual schools, as well as a visit from the Portfolio Leader and County Advisory Panel representative.***

2.4 Children and Young People

2.4.1 During the initial Catchment-area Review Panel meeting held on 4 November 2009, it was suggested that children and young people's views should be sought as the process went on. This was agreed by representatives of every school on the Catchment-area Review Panel.

2.4.2 Individual schools were notified that the session for children and young people would be held at Ysgol Uwchradd Y Berwyn on 11 March 2010. Schools were asked to organise a delegation of School Council members, and it was agreed that 3-4 children from every school should be included.

2.4.3 The head teacher of each school were invited to attend the session with the children and an agenda of the activities and the questions that were to be asked to the children and young people were sent to the head teachers. Head teachers had an opportunity to question the arrangements and offer improvements. No further comments were received from head teachers prior to the session.

- 2.4.4 The session held on 11 March 2010 was facilitated by specialist officers from the Council.
- 2.4.5 A range of activities were held to discover the views of children and young people on several subjects, including:
- class sizes
 - age range within a class
 - children's language medium outside the classroom
 - travelling distances to the school
- 2.4.6 When concluding the session, children and young people were asked to suggest the type of facilities that they would like to see at a school.
- 2.4.7 A full report on the session was produced. In general, the children showed loyalty to their schools and teachers whilst recognising several resources that they would like to see at their schools. The report is presented as Appendix 4 to this report. The report also appears on the Council's web-site.

2.5 County Advisory Panel

- 2.5.1 Through approving the strategy *Primary Education of the Best Quality for Gwynedd Children* unopposed, the Council allowed Improvement Working Group members to remain as a forum to support the Education Portfolio Leader as she led reviews catchment by catchment-area. That was done using the name *County Advisory Panel. Representatives from every political grouping on Gwynedd Council were invited.*
- 2.5.2 Four County Advisory Panel meetings were held to discuss developments at y Berwyn, on 7 December 2009, 28 January, 24 February and 24 March 2010.
- 2.5.3 The Panel proposed several options for re-organisation of the area's schools, alongside an analysis of models proposed by the Catchment-area Review Panel.
- 2.5.4 Every political grouping except one were represented on the County Panel. A Panel member resigned before the meeting held on 1 September 2009.
- 2.5.5 *The models for the catchment area were carefully discussed by the County Advisory Panel and the members expressed their views.*

2.6 Community and Language Impact Assessment

- 2.6.1 As part of the process, Dylan Bryn Roberts Consultancy was commissioned to hold an assessment of the potential language and community impact of the various re-organisation proposals. The Council also conducted an Equalities Impact Assessment on the proposals prior to the commencement of the statutory consultation.
- 2.6.2 Meetings were held with individual schools to gather information and findings. A questionnaire was prepared to obtain the views of staff, governors, parents and the wider community to the options. Electronically produced and hard copies of the questionnaire were disseminated.

2.6.3 Assessment results have had a core role in developing the proposals presented in this report.

2.6.4 The full reports appear on the Council web-site.

2.7 Written Communication

2.7.1 *Four newsletters were prepared for dissemination to every school following every meeting except for one of the Catchment-area Review Panel. Hard copies were sent to the school to circulate to every parent, the newsletter was e-mailed to every school and the newsletters were published on the Council's web-site. The fourth summarised the proposals that would be submitted to the Council.*

2.7.2 All the Catchment-area's Review Panel papers were published on the Council web-site.

2.7.3 Contact details of officers involved in the work appeared on the web-site.

2.8 Process Status

2.8.1 Note that the activities undertaken thus far form part of the information gathering process when drawing up initial proposals.

2.8.2 The 021/2009 newsletter *School Organisation Proposals* was published on 18 September 2009. This Circular is relevant to these proposals.

2.8.3 *It is therefore confirmed that the activities undertaken when drawing up these proposals do not form part of the statutory process of reviewing provision in the Y Berwyn catchment-area. The discussions thus far are in addition to that which is expected by the Assembly Government.*

3. PROPOSALS FOR THE Y BERWYN CATCHMENT-AREA

3.1 On 12 May 2010, the Education Portfolio Leader presented her proposals for schools re-organisation in the Y Berwyn catchment-area to the Catchment-area Review Panel, which were as follows:

- *A new Lifelong Campus for the town of Bala* to open during the school year 2014-15 and include *Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn* schools. Officers will need to do further work on the managerial nature of the new campus.
- *Close Ysgol Y Parc by September 2012*, offering a place for children in the catchment-area at Ysgol O M Edwards, Llanuwchllyn
- *Promote collaboration between Ffridd y Llyn, Bro Tryweryn and O M Edwards schools and the new Lifelong Campus.*

3.2 The proposals were accepted by Gwynedd Council on 15 July 2010 as a basis for formal statutory consultation.

4. THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 4.1 In line with the statutory requirements and Welsh Assembly Government guidance, Gwynedd Council undertook a period of statutory consultation on the proposals with relevant stakeholders from 13 December 2010 to 4 February 2011.
- 4.2 A Statutory Consultation paper was prepared and disseminated to relevant consultees in areas served by Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn and Ysgolion Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid, and a further Statutory Consultation paper was prepared and disseminated to relevant consultees in the Parc catchment area during the week of 6 December 2010.
- 4.3 Statutory consultation meetings were held with staff, governors and parents at each of the affected schools between 10-19 January 2011. Minutes of these meetings were taken by Council officers and circulated to the relevant schools. Agreed minutes are attached at Appendix 2. The meetings were held on the following dates:

School	Date	Meetings
Y Parc	10/1/11	Separate meetings for staff, parents and governors. At the school's request, members of the wider community were also permitted to attend the parents meeting.
Y Berwyn	13/1/11	Separate meetings for staff, governors and parents.
Beuno Sant	18/1/11	Separate meetings for staff, governors and parents.
Bro Tegid	19/1/11	Separate meetings for staff, governors and parents.

- 4.4 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 Bala Library.
- 4.5 The relevant Government Circular also requires that pupils are offered the opportunity to take part in the consultation. The Council offered schools two means of achieving this – either by arranging for an independent facilitator to speak with pupils or by preparing a written exercise document to be completed by children under their teacher's direction. The three school's in Bala town chose to administer the exercise themselves. Ysgol y Parc requested the presence of an independent facilitator to lead a session for current and past pupils. An analysis of responses received is attached at Appendix 4.
- 4.6 By 4 February 2011, 85 responses had been received in total from the Berwyn catchment area including two petitions – one of 30 signatures supporting the establishment of a lifelong learning school in Bala, and one of 668 signatures opposing the closure of Ysgol Y Parc. A breakdown of the responses received is provided below:

School	Letters	E-mail	Other	Total
Y Parc	48	25	1 (668)	74
Bala town	4	4	1 (30)	9

General	1	2	0	3
TOTAL	53	31	2	86

5. Comments received during the Statutory Consultation period

- 5.1 An analysis has been made of all responses and a quantitative report on the comments received and the Council's response to those comments is attached at Appendix 3.
- 5.2 The responses have been split into three sections. Section 6 deals with responses focused on Ysgol y Parc while section 7 deals with responses discussing schools in Bala town (Y Berwyn Secondary school and Ysgolion Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid). Section 8 deals with general responses which dealt either with both proposals at once or were a more general response to the Council's reorganisation strategy.
- 5.3 Further information on the Council's response is included below.

6. RESPONSES FROM YSGOL Y PARC

- 6.1 The purpose of this part of the report is to present the Council's response to the main issues raised during the consultation period. A full response to other matters raised have been noted in Appendix 3.2
- 6.2 The written responses and comments received during statutory meetings at the four schools largely focused on the issues outlined below:
- the Welsh language
 - community issues, including the use of school buildings
 - educational issues
 - transport
 - the quality and suitability of school buildings
 - finance
 - the accuracy of information provided before and during the consultation process
 - criticism of the Council's conduct during the local discussions
 - the presentation of alternative models
- 6.3 In addition, a petition was presented outlining opposition to the proposal to close Ysgol y Parc by August 2012. The petition is reproduced in the pack of correspondence provided as background documentation.

6.4 Language impact

- 6.4.1 The 021/2009 Welsh Assembly Government School Organisation Proposals Circular notes that bodies bringing forward proposals for school reorganisation must consider the potential impact of reorganisation on the Welsh language in formulating proposals.
- 6.4.2 A full and independent Language Impact Assessment was completed and is available on the Council's website. The report found that this proposal offers an opportunity to strengthen the use of Welsh both within and outside the classroom for primary age pupils in Y Parc and Llanuwchllyn.

- 6.4.3 The assessment found that the proposal could strengthen the use of Welsh both within and without the classroom and would have a positive impact overall in language terms.

6.5 Community Impact

- 6.5.1 Most primary age pupils resident within the Parc catchment area currently attend the school. All pupils resident within the OM Edwards catchment area attend that school. It is likely that the strengthening of rural education in the Llanuwchllyn area and the investment in the school building will be an attraction and keep children within the catchment-area.
- 6.5.2 A summary of the community based facilities and community use of the schools' facilities is provided in the statistical analysis agreed by every school and published on the Council's website. These statistics were agreed by school representatives.
- 6.5.3 The 021/2009 Welsh Assembly Government School Organisation Proposals Circular notes that bodies bringing forward proposals for school reorganisation must consider community factors in formulating proposals.
- 6.5.4 A full and independent Community Impact Assessment was carried out on the proposals (available to be viewed on the Council's website). The assessment found that the closure of Ysgol y Parc with the provision of places for Parc pupils at Ysgol OM Edwards, Llanuwchllyn, could have a negative impact on the community of Y Parc. The report makes a number of recommendations which could be taken to mitigate the negative impact of closing schools. The Council will endeavour to implement many of these, including support in maintaining community provision. The local area regeneration officer will work closely with the community.
- 6.5.5 Ysgol y Parc is a Community School designated as a Community School with community facilities. 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 to Llanycil Community Council on a 99-year lease dated 11 December 1978. 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.
- 6.5.6 The lease outlines the responsibilities of the Council and the Management Committee established by Llanycil Community Council with regard to the running of the community hall.
- 6.5.7 The community has contacted the Council with a view to beginning discussions on maintaining the community hall if the proposal to close the school is implemented. The Council's property department has outlined in writing that its intention from the outset would be to offer to sell the community hall portion of the building to the Community Council subject to the creation of a new 99-year lease. Such a sale would also place a legal duty on the Council to make financial payments to the hall's Management Committee as a continuation of the present contribution towards caretaking and cleaning

costs. In addition, the present devolved maintenance budget would be paid directly to the Committee. Taken together, this would provide an annual contribution from Gwynedd Council of £5,527 at today's prices towards the costs of maintaining the community hall. Discussions on this matter continue.

6.6 Educational standards

- 6.6.1 Both Ysgol Y Parc and Ysgol OM Edwards provide education of a good standard. Ysgol y Parc scored seven Grades 2 in its most recent inspection, while Ysgol OM Edwards scored 7 Grades 1 in its most recent inspection. There is every reason to expect that the delivery of new facilities at Ysgol OM Edwards, the establishment of larger and more robust classes and the creation of a larger pool of teaching and support staff will maintain and improve educational standards. The proposal should help provide a broad and balanced curriculum.
- 6.6.2 Class sizes at Ysgol y Parc currently stand at 9.5 on average and 17 on average at Ysgol OM Edwards. The strategy notes that the aim should be to secure class sizes of between 12-25 pupils. It is envisaged that there will be larger groups of children in the new area school – at 2009 numbers, the proposal anticipates that the school would have a budget which would allow 3 teachers teaching 64 pupils, or average class sizes of 21 on average. If pupil numbers increase, as anticipated, the budgeted allocation would also increase.
- 6.6.3 Leadership is key to driving up educational standards. Schools in the Berwyn catchment area have attracted high-quality headteachers who drive up educational attainment. The proposal would lead to an increase in staff numbers.

6.7 Travel

- 6.7.1 Gwynedd Council's strategy for primary education notes that it has the aim of ensuring pupils do not travel more than 30 minutes one way to school. Those who were consulted expressed concern that the travel route from Parc to the site of Ysgol O.M. Edwards was narrow and unsuitable for buses.
- 6.7.2 The Council's transport officers have assessed the travel route and they are satisfied that it is practical to provide one mini bus within the Council's transport policy, safely. The assessment was carried out in January 2011 in the company of the school Head. A 20 seater bus already makes the journey to transport secondary school age children from Y Parc to Bala.
- 6.7.3 Gwynedd Council does not currently provide adult supervision, other than the driver, on school buses. However, as part of the Council's response to statutory consultations in the Tywyn area, the Council has undertaken to ensure that seatbelts are provided on any new bus contracts and that adult supervision is provided at the commencement of the new arrangements. The Council will review the provision of adult supervision after the first full terms of the new arrangement, which will be in December 2012.

6.8 Buildings

- 6.8.1 Under the Council's Asset Management Plan it is estimated that in excess of £107,000 will be required for expenditure on maintenance and Health and Safety matters at the two schools, Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol O.M. Edwards.

- 6.8.2 The proposal forms part of a £10.2m project in the Berwyn catchment area to ensure that schools in the area are upgraded to the Welsh Assembly Government's 21st Century Schools standard. The Council has presented a bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for 70% of the cost (£7.7m which would leave the Council to fund the remaining £2.56m). Around £1.3m of the overall project cost has been earmarked for upgrading works at Ysgolion OM Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn.
- 6.8.3 Ysgol OM Edwards will be extended and upgraded so that it can provide the best facilities for education. As it stands, Ysgol O M Edwards has sufficient classroom area to accommodate the additional children from Ysgol y Parc but would not be able to accommodate any subsequent future increase in pupil numbers. Also, the building requires upgrading works to offer the other facilities expected in a fit for purpose educational facility for the 21st Century e.g. resource area, staff room, adaptations to the hall, adaptations to ensure adequate and safe parking/pupil drop off etc. Undertaking these upgrading works will not only ensure that the buildings are suitable for education provision in the 21st century but will also ensure that there will be sufficient accommodation should there be an increase in pupil numbers in the future. As a result of the reorganisation process there will be a substantial investment to develop Ysgol O M Edwards.

6.9 Finance

- 6.9.1 The Education Department's minimum staffing protection policy is implemented at Ysgol y Parc. The County spent £500,794 during 2010-11 to maintain a minimum of a headteacher and teacher at every school which has more than 15 pupils and a head and assistant in schools with fewer than 15 pupils. Ysgol y Parc currently has 19 pupils and therefore receives £36,315 through this policy in addition to its standard allocation.
- 6.9.2 Ysgol OM Edwards does not lie within the minimum staffing level protection policy, but will receive an additional £46,727 as a result of providing education for pupils currently attending Ysgol y Parc.
- 6.9.3 Ysgol O M Edwards will receive additional funding as a result of the reorganisation process. The budgeted allocation for Ysgol OM Edwards if this proposal were to be fully implemented would be £223,462.
- 6.9.4 Closing Ysgol Y Parc would produce an annual saving of £86,373. Transport will need to be provided for pupils to the new school in accordance with the Council's transport policy. Based on today's prices, an additional cost of approximately £15,000 is envisaged. It will therefore reduce the expected saving to £71,373.
- 6.9.5 Savings realised by the closure of Ysgol y Parc will be retained within the Education budget. A further commitment has been made that 20% of the savings will remain within the catchment area for the duration of the county-wide review process subject to the completion of consultation with relevant professional bodies.

6.10 Impact Assessments

- 6.10.1 Equalities, Language and Community Impact Assessments were carried out on the proposals. Comments on the Language and Community assessments were received

during the consultation and have received attention in within this report and within Appendix 3.

- 6.10.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals. It was found that no significant adverse effects could be expected from the proposal. Indeed, as the proposal necessitates significant upgrading and extension works to Ysgol OM Edwards, any concerns on accessibility will be dealt with appropriately.
- 6.10.3 Copies of all three Impact Assessments were provided to consultees during the statutory consultation period and are available on the Council's Web site.

6.11 Consideration of alternatives

- 6.11.1 Proposers are required to give due regard to alternative proposals. Options considered during the review process included:
- No change
 - The federalisation of Ysgol y Parc with Ysgol OM Edwards and with some or all of the other two rural schools in the Berwyn catchment area.
 - The closure of all six primary schools and the provision of either a single primary school or a single lifelong learning school in Bala town..
- 6.11.2 The Council considered that the option which appeared to meet its requirements as outlined in its *Excellent Education for Gwynedd's Children* strategy and Welsh Assembly Government circular 021/2009 was the preferred option, and on that basis it initiated a statutory consultation.
- 6.11.3 Some respondents claimed that establishing a federal arrangement for the Penllyn area – including the four rural school outside Bala town, and also considering including the proposed lifelong school in Bala – would release greater savings than would be realised by closing Ysgol y Parc. Council Officers estimate that maintaining Ysgol y Parc as part of a federal arrangement in Penllyn would save around £3,000 annually compared with savings of around £71,000 which would be released by closing Ysgol y Parc. As explained further in Appendix 5 this kind of arrangement, including the town school, wouldn't create much bigger savings.
- 6.11.4 The original proposal – to close Ysgol y Parc and provide places at Ysgol OM Edwards, remains the preferred option.

6.12 Accuracy of information presented by the Council and the conduct of the statutory period

- 6.12.1 The statistical information published in the statutory consultation paper was agreed by representatives of all schools at the Catchment Area Review Panel meetings.
- 6.12.2 The statutory consultation period was conducted in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's expectations.
- 6.11.3 Where possible, responses were given to questions raised during statutory consultation meetings. Where the accuracy of information was challenged during statutory meetings, officers checked information and responded to the schools. The only change required to the statutory document is to a paragraph which erroneously referred to the provision of

nursery education for children following their third birthday as being delivered by playgroups. Nursery provision in the area is provided by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin.

- 6.11.4 Appendix 5 (Questions and Answers) presents further information on issues and questions raised in the last months.

7. RESPONSES FROM THE BALA TOWN AREA (YSGOLION Y BERWYN, BEUNO SANT AND BRO TEGID)

- 7.1 The written responses and comments received during statutory meetings at the schools largely focused on the issues outlined below:

- Support for the principle of a lifelong learning school in Bala town
- Education
- Issues around the proposed buildings

7.2 Support for the lifelong learning campus

- 7.2.1 A common thread to the responses – both written and at the statutory consultation meetings in the area – was support for the concept of the lifelong learning campus in Bala town and for the proposed capital expenditure in the area. Respondents noted that the proposal had the potential to be an innovative and exciting scheme.

- 7.2.2 A petition was presented by individuals within the Berwyn catchment area in support of the proposal. The petition can be seen within the information packs.

7.3 Education

- 7.3.1 Comments received on the anticipated impact of the new proposal on educational standards were positive.

- 7.3.2 Respondents recognised the proposal's potential in terms of protecting rural all-through education and providing a richer educational experience through the provision of new facilities and the sharing of staff expertise.

- 7.3.3 Some concerns were expressed at the risk of children of 3 years of age and 19 years of age sharing a site. The site of the proposed new school would be carefully designed to ensure that pupil safety remains paramount.

- 7.3.4 One respondent felt that pupils could lose out on the experience of making the transition from primary to secondary education. There is a body of research in Wales which suggests that the transition can be unsettling for pupils. An all-through school should remove this unsettling period.

7.4 Buildings

- 7.4.1 In addition to statutory meetings, Council officers held a drop-in session at Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn. The purpose of the session was to allow consultees and members of the wider community to see the initial plans for the lifelong learning campus.

- 7.4.2 The proposal is to develop an entirely new primary sector building, a new performing space, a new technology centre for KS2 up to KS5 (and for adult education out of school hours), upgrading of the current hall to a standard suitable for public performances. The precise detail of the development remains to be developed with local input. A user group has already been established and the design process will involve significant input from governors, staff, parents and pupils.
- 7.4.3 The development will involve the transfer of control of the Beuno Sant Site to the Council. Discussions are on-going with the Church in Wales as to the best way of facilitating such a transfer.
- 7.4.4 A number of useful suggestions were made on the facilities which could be provided at the site and their location.
- 7.4.5 Some concerns were expressed about the potential impact of the building process on the education of pupils. Officers will endeavour to ensure that building works will be planned so that any disruption to the ongoing education at the site is kept to the bare minimum.
- 7.4.6 Some respondents expressed disappointment that the new lifelong learning campus would not be entirely new. The Council's preferred option would have been to provide a new purpose-built campus in Bala town. However a number of factors – including the reduction in capital funding and pressures on the Council's finances – have militated against this. The proposal which has been presented to the Assembly Government with a view to securing funding for 2012-15 would see the provision of a new primary section, a new technology block, an upgraded hall capable of acting as a community theatre and cinema, and an upgraded library.

7.5 Travel

- 7.5.1 There are no additional travel issues arising from this proposal as all three schools are currently located within the town. Current transport arrangements will continue.

7.6 Community

- 7.6.1 The proposed provision of a new cinema and performing space and the upgrading and relocation of the town library drew positive responses.

7.7 Finance

- 7.7.1 The proposed life long learning campus model should release savings of around £69,000 based on 2010-2011 figures.
- 7.7.2 The potential for financial efficiency was commented on by respondents. The proposed model should allow the facility to operate more efficiently than the existing separate institutions.

7.8 Impact Assessments

- 7.8.1 The impact assessments found that this proposal would not have a positive impact on the Welsh language among school pupils, but outlined mitigating actions – as evidenced in other research carried out by the same consultants – on encouraging the use of Welsh both within and without schools. No significant negative impact was anticipated in community or equalities terms. All three impact assessments were sent to consultees during the statutory consultation period and are available on the Council’s website.

8. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

- 8.1 The rationale for the proposals is summarised below. The recommendations are 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.
- 8.2 The new arrangements will provide **an equal opportunity for all children within the catchment-area** to be educated in reasonably sized groups as well as opportunities to more regularly collaborate and play with peers.
- 8.3 They provide **more staffing assurance** in the catchment-area and teachers will have an opportunity **to share various specialisations** and provide the pupils with that expertise. Classes will contain pupils of more equal abilities and will therefore facilitate planning and teaching by the teachers. The recommendation to develop a Lifelong Campus provides an excellent opportunity to secure an educational and cultural powerhouse in the Berwyn area. Although they involve the closure of Beuno Sant Voluntary Aided School it is considered that the factors supporting the proposals on balance provide justify this decision. It is crucial that **every school in the area – in the town of Bala and the surrounding rural area – has an opportunity to utilise the facilities in the new building and the specialisation of the range of staff** there.
- 8.4 The proposals provide the **best balance between providing effective teaching in efficient establishments when providing a choice for parents**. No child will have to travel more than 30 minutes to the primary school once the proposals have been implemented.
- 8.5 The proposals take into account the school building requirements of schools in the area and the LEA’s aims when developing schools that are appropriate for the 21st Century. The **composite catchment-area plan envisages developing a lifelong campus, adapting the remaining schools in the area to make them fit for purpose for the 21st Century**.
- 8.6 **The proposals envisage developing a community-based focus for every school in the area**. 21st Century schools need to provide services that draw the community and school together, promoting education for adults, pre and after school clubs, and other community-based activities. The town library will be upgraded and an improved performance space allowing for public performances will be developed at the new lifelong campus.
- 8.7 **Implementing the proposal creates stability and would secure the future of the 3 rural schools**.

- 8.8 Fully implementing the proposals would release substantial savings, saving 8% of the revenue budget and over 60% of the maintenance and upgrading requirements.

9. NEXT STEPS

- 9.1 If the Council approves these proposals, statutory notices will be published immediately to:

- close Ysgol y Parc by 31 August 2012 with the provision of places at Ysgol OM Edwards, Llanuwchllyn
- close Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid and to open a new lifelong learning school on the adjoining sites currently occupied by Ysgolion Y Berwyn and Beuno Sant by 31 August 2015

- 9.2 The statutory notices will be published in the local press and displayed in prominent locations within the catchment area. By virtue of amendments to Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/1671) which came into force on 1 March 2011 the time limit for responding to statutory notices published after that date is now one month.

- 9.3 At the end of this period the matter will come before the Council Board for the intention to be confirmed. If no formal objections have been received to the Statutory Notices, and the Board decides to proceed with the proposal, the decision can be confirmed. If formal objections have been received to the Statutory Notices, the matter will be transferred to the Minister for Education in the Welsh Assembly Government.

10. Council Committees Route

- 10.1 A report on this proposal was presented to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2011 and the Council Board 15 March 2011.

- 10.2 The Scrutiny Committee decided to convey to the Council Board on 15 March 2011 and Full Council on 12 May 2011 the Scrutiny Committee's support to the proposals:

- 10.3 It was decided in the Scrutiny Committee to ask the relevant Officers within the Education Department to prepare a report for consideration by the Council Board on 15 March 2011 and Full Council on 12 May 2011 outlining the obligations of extending the closure date for Ysgol Y Parc to 31 August 2013 / 31 August 2014 / 31 August 2015. This matter has been dealt within Appendix 5.

- 10.4 Following careful consideration of the responses received, assessment of the options and alternative implementation timescales, the opinion of officers is to proceed with the original proposals. These were fully noted in part 11 below.

- 10.5 The Scrutiny Committee and the Council Board supported the recommendations.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 In order to facilitate the establishment of the proposed Lifelong Learning Campus approve the proposal to close Ysgol y Berwyn, Ysgol Beuno Sant and Ysgol Bro Tegid on

31 August 2015 and publish statutory notices pursuant to Section 29 the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect.

- 11.2 Approve the proposal to establish a Community School on the sites of Ysgol Y Berwyn and Ysgol Beuno Sant to admit pupils of the age range 3-19 as part of the establishment of a *new Lifelong Campus in the town of Bala* to open on 1 September 2015 and publish statutory notices pursuant to Section 28 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect
- 11.3 Approve the proposal to close *Ysgol y Parc by 31 August 2012*, providing places for children in the catchment-area at Ysgol O M Edwards, Llanuwchllyn. following the completion of upgrading works at Ysgol O M Edwards, and publish statutory notices pursuant to Section 29 the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to that effect.
- 11.4 The Statutory Notices referred to in 11.1.1, 11.1.2 and 11.1.3 above are to be published when the appropriate capital resources have been confirmed.

Background Documents:

Circular 21/2009 School Reorganisation proposals
Gwynedd Council – Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd
Agenda’s and papers of Catchment Area Review Panel Meetings including Statistical Information and Models considered
Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessments
Full Council Report – 15/7/10
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 Bala Library and for Council Members – copies for Political Groups and in Members Lounge.

Comments presented by Statutory Officers to the Council Board:

A Opinion of the Local Member:

B Opinion of the Statutory Officers:

1. Chief Executive

“The proposals before the Board have been the subject of detailed discussion with the catchment area and within the Council’s structures. At any time of significant change, it is exceptionally difficult to achieve uniformity of views since we are dealing with a move away from a familiar situation to a new one. What is required at times like these is that there is enough information to provide an assurance that what is being proposed is the best result. I believe that the work undertaken offers that. Certainly, because of financial considerations beyond the control of this Council, any decision that would lead to delays

in implementation would have enormous implications in terms of the quality of the provision that can be provided.”

2. Monitoring Officer:

“The report and the recommendations follow a result of the consulting period pursuant to the Schools Framework and Standards Act 1998. Information and comments on the result of the consulting period are provided and the Board is required to evaluate these results with the other relevant factors when making a decision on the recommendations.

3. Chief Finance Officer:

“The report seeks approval to recommendations (in part 11) as the recent stage of the strategic process in effect of previous decisions and thorough work by elected members, headteachers, teachers, governors, officers, and others when trying to move forward appropriately with reviewing the organisation of Berwyn catchment area schools. I confirm accuracy of financial figures in part 6.8 and 7.7 of the report with regard to schools’ allocation and transport. The business case continues to be strong, and there are obvious reasons to support the recommendations that are before to operate immediately.

C Background Papers:

CH. Policy Implications:

APPENDIX 1

STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

APPENDIX 1

STATUTORY CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

1.1 Consultation Document to establish a Community School on a life long learning campus in the town of Bala

<p>GWYNEDD COUNCIL</p> <p>PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOLION Y BERWYN, BRO TEGID AND BEUNO SANT AND TO ESTABLISH A 3-19 AGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL ON A NEW LIFELONG LEARNING CAMPUS IN BALA</p> <p>TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 31 AUGUST 2015</p> <p>STATUTORY CONSULTATION PAPER</p>

1 The Proposal

- 1.1 This consultation is held on the proposal to close Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant and provide places for pupils resident in the Bala catchment area at a Lifelong Learning Campus within Bala town.
- 1.2 If the proposal is approved, Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant will close on 31 August 2015.

2 The Statutory Consultation

- 2.1 Meetings will be held between 10-19 January 2011 to discuss Primary school provision in the Berwyn area. This could mean the closure of Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant.
- 2.2 Statutory consultation meetings will be held with staff, governors and parents at:

School	Date	Staff	Governors	Parents
Y Berwyn	13/01/2011	4:00-5:30	5:30-6:30	7:30
Beuno Sant	18/01/2011	5:00-6:00	7:30	6:30-7:30
Bro Tegid	19/01/2011	5:00-6:00	6:00-7:00	7:00

- 2.3 Pupils will also be given an opportunity to take part in the consultation process.
- 2.4 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views at this meeting or to put your response in writing using the response form attached to this document. Responses should be sent to:

Seimon Williams
Schools Reorganisation Project Manager
Gwynedd Council
Council Offices
Shirehall Street

Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Or you can reply by e-mail and send them to: school.organisation@gwynedd.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is **Friday, 4 February 2011**. Any comments must reach the Council in written form or via e-mail by that date.

- 2.4 Your views along with minutes of the statutory consultation meetings will be collated and considered before a decision is made about the next steps. Your views will be taken into account by Gwynedd's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2011 and the Council Board on 15 March 2011. A decision on whether proposals will be published will be made by the full Council on 12 May 2011.
- 2.5 As part of the consultation process, a pack of background information has been prepared and is available at your local school, Bala library and on the Council's website at www.gwynedd.gov.uk. The pack includes:
- papers from the catchment area discussions, including a statistical pack and analysis of options.
 - language, community and equalities impact assessments
- 2.4 Should you require this document in another format, please contact Seimon Williams on 01286 679247.

3 How was this proposal developed?

- 3.1 The Council established an Improvement Working Group in June 2008 to develop a strategy for addressing the county primary schools organisation.
- 3.2 The Improvement Working Group presented a report to Gwynedd Council on 2 April 2009, entitled *Primary Education of the Best Quality for Gwynedd Children*. The strategy outlined the aim of reviewing primary schools per secondary catchment-area, and criteria were established to prioritise catchment-areas for review. The Council approved the Strategy without objection.
- 3.3 This proposal is presented following substantial discussions held in the Berwyn catchment area between November 2009 and March 2010, including:
- 5 Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel meetings
 - a series of meetings with governors, staff and parents of all primary schools in the catchment-area
 - a session for children and young people of the catchment-area
 - language and community impact assessment of the proposals
- 3.4 The Council approved this proposal as a basis for statutory consultation on 15 July 2010.

4 Background leading to the consultation exercise

- 4.1 There are currently 4 Community Primary Schools (ysgolion Ffridd y Llyn, O.M.Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Bro Tegid), one designated Community-focused school

- (Ysgol y Parc), one Voluntary Aided primary school (Ysgol Beuno Sant) and one Secondary school with a sixth form (Ysgol y Berwyn) in the Berwyn area. While all primary schools may legally provide nursery education, provision is made for pupils of 3 years of age at independent nursery groups.
- 4.2 Primary educational provision in the Berwyn catchment area is generally of a high standard. A recent inspection of the Secondary school found that provision there could be improved and there is good work being undertaken in response to this.
- 4.3 A raft of key criteria were used in prioritising catchment areas for review. The Berwyn catchment area was identified as the second catchment of 13 to be reviewed due to:
- 4.3.1 The decline in pupil numbers within the primary sector between 1975-2009 was the most significant of any catchment area in the County. Pupil numbers had declined by 40% in the Primary sector and by 38% in the Secondary sector.
- 4.3.2 Two new area schools were built in the area during the 1960s-1970s. However, many of the area's schools are unsuitable for the needs of the 21st Century. The primary sector has shortcomings in terms of condition of buildings requiring over £660,000 of capital spending, and the secondary school requires significant spending of over £400,000 to ensure it is in fit condition.
- 4.3.3 There are 6 primary schools in the area educating between 19 and 95 pupils. The catchment area's average cost per pupil (£3,721) is 14% higher than the Gwynedd average (£3,262).
- 4.3.4 Ysgol y Berwyn is the only Secondary School in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor which contains a 6th form. It provides education for 369 pupils, including 63 sixth form pupils. The school envisages that pupil numbers will remain constant over the next three years.
- 4.3.5 Berwyn catchment area schools carry significant surplus places, with 30% of primary places and 48% of secondary places remaining unfilled.
- 4.4 During Summer 2009, discussions were held within the local community on the potential for the development of all-age provision in the area. Ysgol y Berwyn proposed to the Catchment Area Review Panel that this should form a core part of the Panel's discussions, and this was agreed to.
- 4.5 For the reasons outlined above, the current provision in the Berwyn area is no longer sustainable.

5 Ysgolion y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant

- 5.1 The model which is being proposed for Bala town is that Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant should close by August 2015. All primary pupils within the Bala town catchment area would be offered a place at the proposed Lifelong Learning Campus on the present site of Ysgol y Berwyn along with all secondary age pupils from the current Berwyn catchment area.
- 5.2 The site would be refurbished and adapted to provide primary places for 550 pupils aged 3-19, subject to a grant for Welsh Assembly Government capital funding. A bid for grant

funding for this proposal was submitted to the Government in December 2010 as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools programme. The Government is likely to decide which bids are successful during Summer 2011.

- 5.3 Local authorities are expected to ensure efficient use of resources. The budgets for the three schools in Bala town for 2010/11 are:

School	Allocation 2010/11	Per pupil
Ysgol y Berwyn (including Post-16 grant)	£1.792m	£4,766
Gwynedd Secondary Schools (including post-16 grant)	£33.505m	£4,392
Ysgol Bro Tegid	£309,827	3,038
Ysgol Beuno Sant	£183,007	3,519
Y Berwyn catchment area primary schools	£1,108,897	3,721
Gwynedd Primary Schools	£29,490,206	3,262

None of the schools lie within Gwynedd's minimum staffing protection policy that provides an assurance of at least a headteacher and teacher for every school with more than 15 full-time pupils. It is estimated that the budget allocation the new all-age campus will receive, based on today's figures, would be £2,318,542 (including post-16 grant). It is estimated that the whole plan would save at least £68,900.

- 5.4 Pupil number in Bala town have declined markedly over the past 35 years. Primary age pupils at Ysgolion Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant decreased from 285 in 1975 to 146 in 2010, with a slight increase forecast over the next three years. Ysgol y Berwyn has likewise experienced a significant decrease from 560 pupils aged 11-16 to 306 over the same period, although again pupil number appear to be stabilising.
- 5.5 The budgets of all three schools are becoming increasingly pressurised. As medium-sized primary schools, Ysgolion Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant have contributed to savings across the primary sector which does not apply to schools within the minimum staffing protection safety net. Ysgol y Berwyn's budget is being squeezed by the need to balance curriculum provision against the allocation provided by decreasing pupil numbers.
- 5.6 The condition of the school buildings is generally acceptable. However, there is a need to upgrade some parts of all three schools.

School	Maintenance post-accumulation	Fire and asbestos	Total
Y Berwyn	£293,250	£41,000	£335,250
Bro Tegid	£37,700	£10,500	£48,200
Beuno Sant	£22,750	£25,500	£48,250
Total	£354,700	£77,000	£431,700

- 5.7 Class sizes in the primary sector are currently 25 at Bro Tegid and 17 at Beuno Sant.
- 5.8 Ysgol y Berwyn has capacity for 730 pupils aged 11-19 and currently educates 369 pupils, meaning that nearly 50% of its capacity is surplus. Ysgol Bro Tegid is currently over capacity (educating 95 pupils in a school which can accommodate 84 pupils) while

Ysgol Beuno Sant has capacity for 79 pupils and provides education for 51. Assembly Government guidelines define a substantial number as more than 25% and more than 30 empty places.

- 5.9 Community facilities within the Berwyn area are increasingly threatened by a combination of poor or unsuitable facilities and decreasing funding available to maintain that provision. The town library is located on the Ysgol y Berwyn site but is inaccessible to the general public during school hours, and Neuadd Buddug – which provides many cultural activities in the town – is in a poor state of repair and requires replacing.
- 5.10 Presenting this proposal – alongside other proposals in the Berwyn catchment- area – will provide an opportunity for the Council to develop schools that are suitable to meet the educational requirements of the 21st Century.

6 Consideration of options

- 6.1 During the catchment area discussions in the Berwyn area between November 2009 and March 2010, a number of further options were considered for Bala. At an early point in the discussions, a degree of consensus formed around exploring the possibilities a lifelong learning campus could afford.
- 6.2 Below are some main recommendations for the lifelong model:
- A Lifelong School to cover nursery, primary, secondary and community and cultural provision. In the case of Y Berwyn, as a starting point, adding a library and theatre provision to the campus should be considered. Local discussions will be held when further consideration will be given to this.
 - There would be a need to establish a local board under the guidance of the head of the lifelong campus and include representatives of all facilities and services on the site.
 - There would be a single governing body for the lifelong school and a single budget for the 3-19 Age Community School which would form a core part of the Lifelong Campus.

Possible Management Structure

- One headteacher would assume responsibility for the entire campus, with assistant sector heads to be responsible for the foundation phase, Key Stages 2 and 3, and Key Stages 4 and 5 and any other facilities and services on the site.
 - In the second management tier, a system of co-ordinators could be established with cross establishment responsibility for aspects such as Pastoral Care, Assessment or Community Activities.
- 6.3 The models discussed included:
- maintaining all three schools in the town as separate entities
 - closing Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools and forming a single primary school in the town with the possibility of incorporating Ysgol y Berwyn
 - closing Bro Tegid, Beuno Sant schools and other primary schools within the catchment area and forming a single primary school with the possibility of incorporating Ysgol Y Berwyn

These options were analysed by Council officers and presented to Catchment Area Review Panel members. The documentation is available on the Council website or from your school.

- 6.4 An appraisal of the options measured against the Council's key criteria and the Assembly Government's guidance follows:

Factor	No change	Single primary school for Bala town	Single primary school for the wider catchment area	A lifelong learning school for Bala	A lifelong learning school for the wider catchment area
Size of school	Bro Tegid - 95 Beuno Sant - 51 Y Berwyn - 369	146	308	Primary – 146 Secondary - 369	Primary – 308 Secondary - 369
Class sizes	Bro Tegid - 24 Beuno Sant - 17	Primary - 24	25	Primary - 24	Primary - 25
Educational standards	Bro Tegid - 3 Grades 1, 4 Grades 2 Beuno Sant – 7 Grades 2 Y Berwyn – 2 Grades 2, 3 Grades 3, 2 Grades 4	Both schools deliver good quality education.	All primary schools inspected in the area by ESTYN have achieved at least Grades 2 across the board	Primary schools deliver good quality education. Secondary school has received poor ESTYN inspections but is now reacting positively	All primary schools deliver good education. The secondary school has received poor ESTYN inspections but is now reacting positively
Learning Environment	Significant adaptation and maintenance work required at all 3 sites	Need to develop Foundation Phase area, ICT, staff rooms	Would necessitate a new build	Using the Berwyn site would necessitate a number of improvement works or rebuilding	The primary sector would need to be built from new. It is unlikely the current Berwyn site could accommodate the campus
Building work required	None, other than to ensure that buildings are fit for purpose	Significant work on extending, upgrading or new build to accommodate 146 primary pupils	New build to accommodate 308 pupil primary school	Significant work on upgrading, adapting or new built to accommodate over 550 pupils aged 3-19	Entirely new build to accommodate 700 pupils on one site. Unlikely an appropriate site could be found.
Leadership and staffing	Bro Tegid 4 Beuno Sant 2.5 Y Berwyn 21	6 teachers	11 teachers	27 teachers	32 teachers
Per pupil budget	Bro Tegid £ 3,038. Beuno Sant £3,519 Berwyn £4,766	£3,095 (2009/10 prices)	£2,877 (2009/10 prices)	£4,309 (2009/10 prices)	£4,012 (2009/10 prices)

Factor	No change	Single primary school for Bala town	Single primary school for the wider catchment area	A lifelong learning school for Bala town	A lifelong learning school for the wider catchment area
Transport	No change	No change	£81,000	No change	£81,000
Saving (after transport)	None	£30,128 (2009/10 prices)	£184,226 (2009/10 prices)	£68,899 (2009/10 figures)	At least £250,000 (2009/10 figures)
Surplus places	Bro Tegid Beuno Sant Y Berwyn	0 due to the development of appropriate provision (+ 10% surplus capacity to allow for growth)	0 due to the development of appropriate provision (+ 10% surplus capacity to allow for growth)	0 due to the development of appropriate provision (+ 10% surplus capacity to allow for growth)	0 (although the all-age campus would require an additional 10% to allow future growth)
Language	No effect	-10 negative	11 neutral	-10 negative	Neutral 11
Community	No effect	0.4 negative	11.8 negative	0.4 negative	-12

NB: The Language and Community Impact Assessments drew up a scoring system which measured the potential effects of the proposals for change. A full analysis of the criteria and the methodology used is available in the reports and available on the Council website or from your school

6.5 Option 1 – No change or a loose collaborative arrangement

6.5.1 This option proposed the retention of Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant as legally separate entities but within a collaborative school model.

6.5.2 The advantages of the proposal included:

- maintaining all three schools as sites of education for the catchment area's children
- maintaining choice of a community primary school and a Church in Wales voluntary aided primary school within the town
- the continuance of education at the primary schools which have received good recent ESTYN inspection reports
- allowing the formalisation of collaborative arrangements between schools in the area and the consequent opportunities for shared professional practice
- minimising transport costs
- minimal negative impact on language, community and equalities issues, with collaboration providing opportunities to strengthen the Welsh language in the area

6.5.3 The proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:

- There would continue to be two primary school sites within the town educating around 150 pupils
- Maintenance, heating, lighting and other costs would continue on two primary and one secondary site
- There would be no scope for reacting to concerns on wider community provision including theatre and library provision

6.6 Option 2 – a single primary school for Bala town

6.6.1 This option proposed the closure of Ysgolion Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant and the provision of all primary education in Bala town on one site.

6.6.2 The advantages of this proposal included:

- it would provide a single site for primary education in the area allowing the development of the best facilities
- it would employ 6 full-time teachers, allowing teachers to develop a range of expertise.
- all primary age pupils within the town would receive consistent provision
- this proposal would not incur any additional home to school transport costs
- the range in per pupil spending would be equalised across the catchment area and savings of £30,128 would be realised.

6.6.3 This proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:

- There remains an opportunity within the town to develop all-age educational provision which would strengthen all sectors
- There would be no contribution to wider community and cultural activities

6.7 Option 3 – a single primary school for all or part of the Berwyn catchment area

- 6.7.1 This option proposed the closure of both primary schools in Bala town and some or all of the other four primary schools within the catchment area and the provision of primary education from a single site.
- 6.7.2 The advantages of this proposal included:
- it would provide a single site for primary education in the area allowing the development of the best facilities
 - it would employ 11 full-time teachers, allowing teachers to develop a range of expertise.
 - all primary age pupils would receive consistent provision
 - the range in per pupil spending would be equalised across the catchment area and significant savings of up to £184,226 would be realised.
- 6.7.3 This proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:
- The Education Portfolio Holder has identified a wish to provide parents with a choice of both rural and urban primary education. This option would remove the option of rural education
 - Travel times and costs would increase significantly. The Council's strategy aims to limit travel times to less than 30 minutes each way for primary age pupils
 - there was less support within the catchment area for this model than for others
 - the language and community impact assessments identified a potential negative impact in implementing this proposal.

6.8 *Option 4 – lifelong learning school for Bala town*

- 6.8.1 This is the preferred option and an analysis of its advantages and disadvantages follow in the section 7.

6.9 *Option 5 – lifelong learning school for part or all of the catchment area*

- 6.9.1 This option proposed the closure of some or all primary schools in the Berwyn catchment area and the provision of primary and secondary places at a new all-age school in Bala town.
- 6.9.2 The advantages of this proposal included:
- it would provide a single site for primary education in the area allowing the development of the best facilities
 - it would employ 11 full-time teachers, allowing teachers to develop a range of expertise. There would also be scope to bring in specialist secondary level teachers for specific lessons or projects
 - all primary age pupils would receive consistent provision
 - disruption during the transfer from primary to secondary school would be minimised
 - the range in per pupil spending would be equalised across the catchment area and significant savings of at least £250,000 would be realised.
- 6.9.3 This proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:
- The Education Portfolio Holder has identified a wish to provide parents with a choice of both rural and urban primary education. This option would remove the option of rural education
 - Travel times and costs would increase significantly. The Council's strategy aims to limit travel times to less than 30 minutes each way for primary age pupils

- there was less support within the catchment area for this model than for any other
- the language and community impact assessments identified a potential negative impact in implementing this proposal.

7. Factors supporting the preferred option

- 7.1 The proposal would raise standards in Key Stage 3 by minimising disruption as pupils transfer from primary to secondary education. Research suggests that the transition can disturb the educational development of students.
- 7.2 The standard of teaching and learning would be raised through providing staff with more opportunities to share experiences and expertise.
- 7.3 Individual staff members would be provided with greater opportunities for development. Lifelong Learning campuses can also provide greater flexibility in the use of staff across Key Stages which may prove beneficial during tough economic times.
- 7.4 Better mentoring through a cohesive strategy for the support of all pupils.
- 7.5 Increased flexibility in the designing and development of the curriculum.
- 7.6 Greater opportunities to support the child through increased cross-sector working to support children and families.
- 7.7 Opportunities to protect and develop community provision and to deepen links with the community. Specifically in this case to support the continuation of cultural provision currently provided by Neuadd Buddug and the opening up of the town library to the community.
- 7.8 Opportunities for the sharing of resources leading to savings. In this case, it is envisaged that a central hub will house shared communal areas such as hall, kitchen, offices and reception, cutting back office costs and ensuring that a greater proportion of the school budget is focused on learners. Savings of around £68,889 are envisaged.
- 7.9 Pooling the budgets of the three institutions along with those of Neuadd Buddug and the library would provide a financial robustness to the new institution,
- 7.10 Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales school and this proposal would remove that status. The proposal, if enacted, would allow the governing body of the new school to establish its own constitution – within legal guidelines – and it would be a matter for the new school to agree its structure.
- 7.11 The new school would benefit from significant investment. It would be expected to act as a hub for educational, sporting and cultural events within the wider Berwyn catchment area.

8 Disadvantages of the preferred option

- 8.1 The three schools have strong individual identities. The creation of a single school would necessarily dilute those individual identities.

8.2 Ysgol Beuno Sant is a Voluntary Aided Church in Wales school and acts as its own admissions authority. This proposal would remove this status.

9. What would be the impact of this proposal?

9.1 Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant would close by August 2015.

9.2 From 1 September 2015, primary age children in the catchment-areas of Ysgolion Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant along with Secondary age pupils from the current Ysgol y Berwyn catchment area would be offered places at the new 3-19 age Community School all-age campus on the Ysgol y Berwyn site in Bala town.

9.3 The school would be a 3-19 age Community School and would not have a designated religious character.

9.4 The local authority would be the admission authority for the new school and would provide places at the school in line with its admissions policy. The school would have capacity for 550 pupils aged 3-19 based on current pupil numbers.

9.5 Primary age children from Bala catchment-area would have 3 options when selecting a school, namely:

- Attend the new all-age campus on the present Ysgol y Berwyn site
- attend another school if that school is closer to the home than the all-age campus site
- apply as an out of catchment-area pupils to another school if there is a place at the alternative school

9.6 The Council's School Transport Scheme guarantees transport to the catchment-area school for every pupil residing within the school catchment-area, or to an alternative school if that school is closer to the pupil's home in line with the policy. In Summer 2009, 147 children of statutory primary age resided within the Bala catchment-area. These children will be entitled to free transport in compliance with the Council's Transport Policy. Transport arrangements for secondary school age pupils would be unaffected.

9.7 Any 3 year old has a statutory entitlement to 10 hours nursery provision at a nursery or school. Berwyn catchment area schools may, but choose not to, provide nursery education at school. Nursery education is provided by playgroups. Nursery provision will be included on the site of the all-age campus.

9.8 A bid will be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for capital funding to develop the proposals for the Berwyn area.

10. Purpose of the consultation

10.1 This consultation is held to obtain your opinions on the proposal to close Ysgolion Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant.

10.2 You are welcome to present your response in writing using the attached response form. Letters of response should be sent to:

Seimon Williams
Schools Reorganisation Project Manager
Gwynedd Council
Council Offices
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Or you can reply by e-mail and send them to: school.organisation@gwynedd.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is **Friday 4 February 2011**. Any comments must reach the Council in written form or via e-mail by that date.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOLION
Y BERWYN, BRO TEGID AND BEUNO SANT
AND TO ESTABLISH A 3-19 AGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL ON A NEW LIFELONG
LEARNING CAMPUS IN BALA**

TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 31 AUGUST 2015

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 not 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.

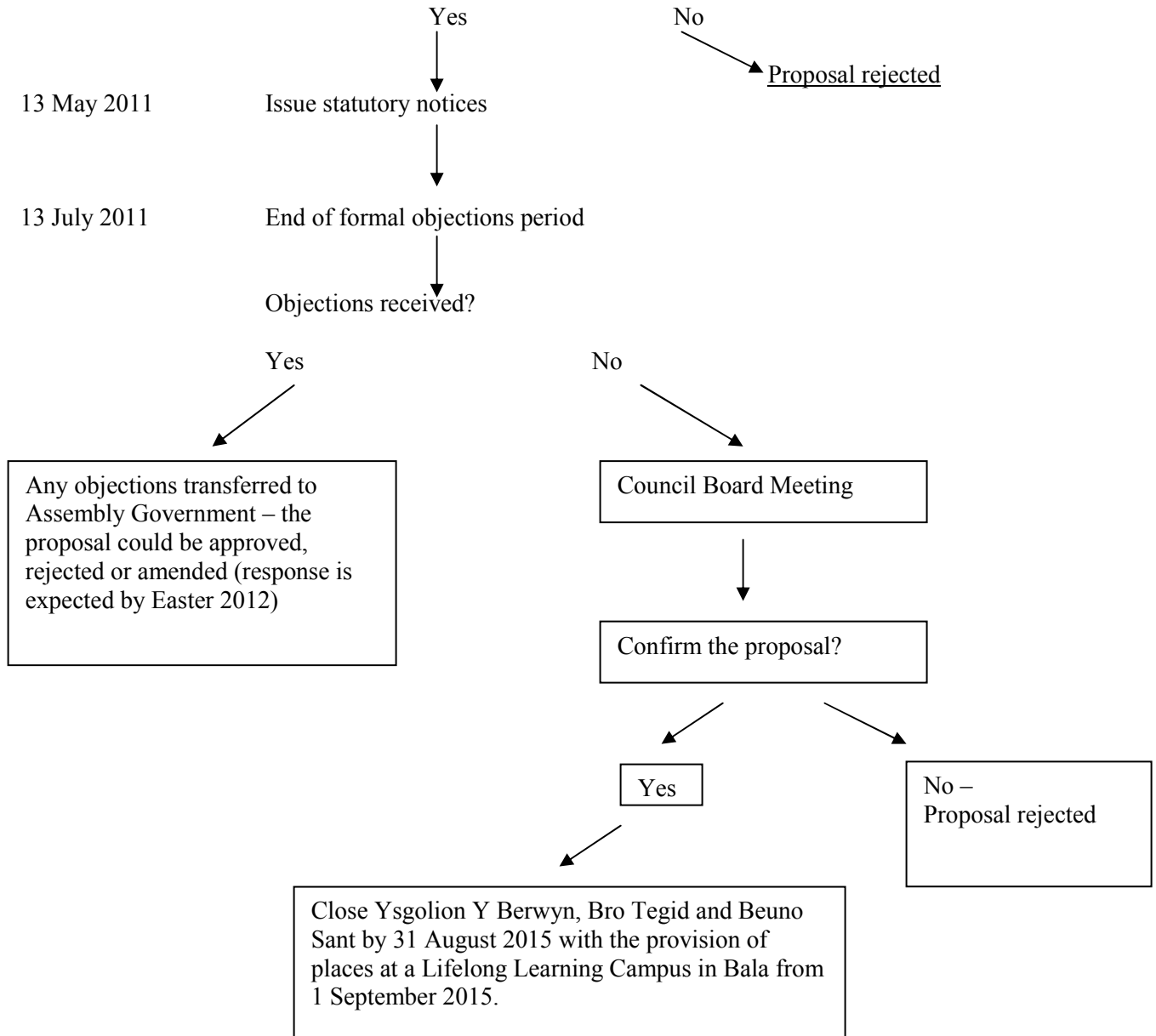
Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Gwynedd Council is seeking your views while it considers this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however 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"/>

Timetable

13 December 2010	Distribute consultation documents
13-19 January 2011	Consultation meetings for staff, governors and parents
04 February 2011	Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal
12 May 2011	The Council decides whether or not to issue statutory notices



1.2 Ysgol y Parc Document

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL Y PARC
TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 31 AUGUST 2012**

STATUTORY CONSULTATION PAPER

1. The Proposal

- 1.1 This consultation is held on the proposal to close Ysgol Y Parc and provide places for pupils resident in the current Y Parc catchment area at Ysgol O.M. Edwards, Llanuwchllyn.
- 1.2 If the proposal is approved, Ysgol y Parc will close on 31 August 2012.

2. The Statutory Consultation

- 2.1 Meetings will be held between 10-19 January 2011 to discuss Primary school provision in the Berwyn area. This could mean the closure of Ysgol Y Parc.
- 2.2 Statutory consultation meetings will be held with staff, governors and parents at Ysgol y Parc on Monday evening 10th of January 2011:
- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Staff | 5:00-6:00 |
| Governors | 6:00-7:00 |
| Parents | 7:00 |
- 2.5 Pupils will also be given an opportunity to take part in the consultation process.
- 2.4 You are welcome to ask questions and let us have your views at this meeting or to put your response in writing using the response form attached to this document. Responses should be sent to:

Seimon Williams
Schools Reorganisation Project Manager
Gwynedd Council
Council Offices
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Or you can reply by e-mail and send them to: school.organisation@gwynedd.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is **Friday, 4 February 2011**. Any comments must reach the Council in written form or via e-mail by that date.

- 2.5 Your views will be collated and considered before a decision is made about the

next steps. Your views will be considered by Gwynedd's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on 24 February 2011 and the Council Board on 15 March 2011. A decision on whether proposals will be published will be made by the full Council on 12 May 2011.

- 2.6 As part of the consultation process, a pack of background information has been prepared and is available at your local school, at Bala Library and on the Council's website at www.gwynedd.gov.uk. The pack includes:
- papers from the catchment area discussions, including a statistical pack and analysis of options.
 - language, community and equalities impact assessments
- 2.7 Should you require this document in another format, please contact Seimon Williams on 01286 679247.

3 How was this proposal developed?

- 3.1 The Council established an Improvement Working Group in June 2008 to develop a strategy for addressing the county primary schools organisation.
- 3.2 The Improvement Working Group presented a report to Gwynedd Council on 2 April 2009, entitled *Primary Education of the Best Quality for Gwynedd Children*. The strategy outlined the aim of reviewing primary schools per secondary catchment-area, and criteria were established to prioritise catchment-areas for review. The Council approved the Strategy without objection.
- 3.3 This proposal is presented following substantial discussions held in the Berwyn catchment area between November 2009 and March 2010, including:
- 5 Berwyn Catchment-area Review Panel meetings
 - a series of meetings with governors, staff and parents of all primary schools in the catchment-area
 - a session for children and young people of the catchment-area
 - language and community impact assessment of the proposals
- 3.4 The Council approved this proposal as a basis for statutory consultation on 15 July 2010.

4 Background leading to the consultation exercise

- 4.1 There are currently 4 Community Primary Schools (ysgolion Ffridd y Llyn, O.M.Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Bro Tegid), one designated Community-focused school (Ysgol y Parc), one Voluntary Aided school (Ysgol Beuno Sant) and one Secondary school with a sixth form (Ysgol y Berwyn) in the Berwyn area. While all primary schools may legally provide nursery education, provision is made for pupils of 3 years of age at nursery groups.
- 4.2 The standard of primary education provision in the Berwyn catchment area is generally good. A recent inspection of the Secondary school found that provision there could be improved and work is underway in response to this.

- 4.3 A raft of key criteria were used in prioritising catchment areas for review. The Berwyn catchment area was identified as the second catchment of 13 to be reviewed due to:
- 4.4 The decline in pupil numbers within the primary sector between 1975-2009 was the most significant of any catchment area in the County. Pupil numbers had declined by 40% in the Primary sector and by 38% in the Secondary sector.
- 4.5 Two new area schools were built in the area during the 1960s-1970s. However, many of the area's schools are unsuitable for the needs of the 21st Century. The primary sector has shortcomings in terms of the condition of buildings requiring over £660,000 of capital spending, and the secondary school requires significant spending of over £400,000 to improve its condition.
- 4.6 There are 6 primary schools in the catchment area educating between 19 and 95 pupils. The catchment area's average cost per pupil (£3,721) is 14% higher than the County average (£3,262).
- 4.7 Ysgol y Berwyn is the only Secondary School in Meirionnydd and Dwyfor which contains a 6th form and currently has a budget deficit.
- 4.8 Berwyn catchment area schools carry significant surplus places, with 30% of primary places and 48% of secondary places remaining unfilled.
- 4.9 For the reasons outlined above, the current provision in the Berwyn area is no longer sustainable.

5 Ysgol y Parc

- 5.1 The model which is being proposed for the Parc area is that Ysgol y Parc should close by 31 August 2012. Primary age pupils resident in the Parc area would be offered a place at Ysgol O.M. Edwards from 1 September 2012. This proposal was accepted as a basis for statutory consultation by Gwynedd Council on 15 July 2010.
- 5.2 Ysgol O.M. Edwards would be adapted to accommodate 90 pupils.
- 5.3 Local authorities are expected to ensure effective use of resources. The school's budget in 2010/11 is £133,100 which equates to £7,394 per pupil. This is nearly twice the catchment area average per pupil spend of £3,721 and easily double the County average of £3,262. Ysgol y Parc currently lies within Gwynedd Council minimum staffing protection that provides an assurance of at least a headteacher and teacher for every school which has more than 15 full-time pupils. This requires an additional £36,315 during the 2010/11 financial year in addition to its formula allocation.
- 5.4 Ysgol y Parc is the second smallest primary school remaining in Gwynedd and the smallest in the Berwyn catchment area with 19 pupils in September 2010. It has not provided for more than 27 pupils (aged 4-10) at any point in the past 35 years and numbers have been as low as 8 within the past decade. The school forecasts that pupil numbers should remain at around 20 over the next 3 years.

- 5.5 The Strategy for Education of the Best Quality for Gwynedd's Children identifies that primary school classes should be between 12-25. The average class size in Ysgol y Parc is currently 10, and this is not expected to change over the next 3 years.
- 5.6 The school has capacity for 33 pupils aged 4-10 plus three nursery places (the school does not currently offer nursery provision). There are therefore currently 13 surplus places at the school. Assembly Government guidelines define a substantial number of surplus places as more than 25% of a school's capacity and more than 30 empty places.
- 5.7 According to information provided by the school alongside assessments carried out by the County, the school does not have adequate space for the delivery of the Foundation Stage, a playing field nor a staff room.
- 5.8 The school has been led by temporary headteachers since the retirement of the last full-time headteacher in 2005.
- 5.9 The school does not attract significant numbers of out of catchment area pupils, neither does it lose many pupils to other schools.
- 5.10 The Council's Minimum Staffing Protection policy ensures that all schools with more than 15 full-time pupils receive adequate funding for the employment of a headteacher and teacher. Ysgol y Parc has at times over the past 10 years fallen below that number and has therefore been in receipt of an allocation which allows for the employment of a headteacher and classroom assistant only. This has meant that, at times, the headteacher has been expected to lead the school and to teach classes of up to 14 pupils across 7 age groups on a full-time basis.
- 5.11 Presenting this proposal – alongside other proposals in the Berwyn catchment- area – will provide an opportunity for the Council to develop schools that are suitable to meet the educational requirements of the 21st Century.

6 Consideration of options

- 6.1 During the catchment area discussions in the Berwyn between November 2009 and March 2010, a number of further options were considered for Ysgol y Parc, including:
- maintaining Ysgol y Parc as part of a wider collaborative or federal school
 - closing Ysgol y Parc and providing places for pupils at Ysgol O. M. Edwards
 - closing Ysgol y Parc and transferring pupils to a new Lifelong Learning School in Bala town

These options were analysed by Council officers and presented to Catchment Area Review Panel members. The documentation is available on the Council website or from your school.

- 6.2 An appraisal of the options measured against the Council's key criteria and the Assembly Government's guidance follows:

Factor	Collaboration	Closing Ysgol y Parc and transferring pupils to O.M.Edwards	Closing all catchment primary schools and transferring pupils to a lifelong learning school in y Berwyn
Size of school	19	70	308 primary, 369 secondary
Class sizes	10	23	25
Educational standards	7 Grades 2 in a 2007 ESTYN inspection	7 Grades 1 in Ysgol OM Edwards' 2006 ESTYN inspection	All primary schools in the area inspected by ESTYN have achieved at least 7 Grades 2.
Learning Environment	Need to develop space for Foundation stage, staff room, minor remedial works	Need to develop space for Foundation stage, Headteacher office, minor remedial works	Substantially remodelled school would provide up to date all-age facilities for the whole catchment area
Building work required	There is a need to upgrade the building to 21 st Century standards	A single classroom extension would need to be built alongside other upgrading works	Significant building work to substantially upgrade or replace the current Berwyn site
Leadership and staffing	Continues close to the point at which the budget allocation cannot support 2 teachers. Opportunities for teacher to collaborate and share expertise/experience	Would be able to employ 3 full-time teachers including the headteacher More teachers on site to facilitate collaboration	32 teachers
Per pupil budget	£7,394 for Ysgol y Parc, which is more than double the County average	£3,286, which is around the County average	£4,012 (2009/10 prices)
Transport	No additional transport required	The cost of providing additional transport is estimated at £15,000	£81,000 across the catchment area
Saving (after transport)	£0	£71,373	At least £250,000 (2009/10 figures)
Surplus places	14 out of 33	0 (although the extension of Ysgol OM Edwards would require an additional 10% to allow future growth)	0 (although the all-age campus would require an additional 10% to allow future growth)
Language	+9	+9	Neutral 11
Community	No impact	-6.5	-12

NB: The Language and Community Impact Assessments drew up a scoring system which measured the potential effects of the proposals for change. A full analysis of the criteria and the methodology used is available in the reports and available on the Council website or from your school

6.3 Option 1 – status quo / collaboration

6.3.1 This option proposed the retention of Ysgol y Parc as a site within a collaborative school model.

6.3.2 The advantages of the proposal included:

- maintaining the Ysgol y Parc school building as a site of primary education for the catchment area's children
- the continuance of education at the school which received a good ESTYN inspection report in 2007
- allowing the formalisation of collaborative arrangements between schools in the area and the consequent opportunities for shared professional practice
- minimising transport costs
- the continuation of a community facility in its present form
- minimal negative impact on language, community and equalities issues, with collaboration providing opportunities to significantly strengthen the Welsh Language in the area

6.3.3 The proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:

- it would not increase the size of teaching groups at the site to a size consistent with the Council's strategy
- other schools in the catchment area provide education of at least comparable quality at a lower cost
- it would not impact on the wide disparity in per pupil spending between Ysgol y Parc and other schools in the catchment area and would not contribute savings which would be reinvested in school budgets
- it would not reduce surplus places
- schools which have fewer than 15 pupils do not receive sufficient funding to provide a headteacher and teacher.

6.4 Option 2 – closing Ysgol y Parc and providing places at Ysgol OM Edwards

6.4.1 This is the preferred option. An analysis of the advantages and disadvantages are outlined in section 7 below.

6.5 Option 3 – transferring Parc pupils to a Lifelong Learning school in Bala town

6.5.1 This option proposed the closure of all primary schools in the Berwyn catchment area and the provision of primary places at a new lifelong learning school in Bala.

6.5.2 The advantages of this proposal include:

- it would provide a single site for primary education in the area which would provide an opportunity to develop the best facilities
- it would employ 11 full-time teachers, allowing teachers to develop a range of expertise. There would also be scope to bring in specialist secondary level teachers for specific lessons or projects
- all primary age pupils would receive consistent provision
- disruption during the transfer from primary to secondary school would be minimised
- the range in per pupil spending would be equalised across the catchment area and significant savings of at least £250,000 would be realised.

6.5.3 This proposal was not put forward as a preferred option for the following reasons:

- the Education Portfolio Holder has identified a wish to provide parents with a choice of both rural and urban primary education. This option would delete the option of rural education
- travel times and costs would increase significantly. The Council's strategy aims to limit travel times to less than 30 minutes each way for primary age pupils
- there was less support within the catchment area for this model than for any other
- the language and community impact assessments identified a need to give careful consideration to the situation

7 Factors supporting the preferred option

- 7.1 An adapted Ysgol O.M. Edwards will provide a broader range of suitable facilities. If an investment is secured for the proposals in the Berwyn catchment area, Ysgol O.M Edwards will have the facilities to provide education of the highest standard.
- 7.2 There will be more teachers at Ysgol O.M Edwards. The proposal to develop collaborative arrangements between Ysgol O.M Edwards and the proposed new Lifelong Learning School in Bala town would provide a range of expertise and experience in curriculum fields. There would also be a broader range of staff which would provide more opportunities for teachers to nurture various experiences and ensure career development. It is estimated that there will be an adequate budget to cater for a minimum of 3 teachers at Ysgol O.M Edwards based on the numbers currently attending the two schools.
- 7.3 Pupils will have an opportunity to learn alongside their peers in more substantial groups, and participate in group activities. Classes at Ysgol y Parc currently provide for 10 pupils. The estimated budget for Ysgol O.M Edwards following the proposed closure of Ysgol Y Parc would be appropriate for sustaining three classes of around 23 pupils.
- 7.4 The most recent Estyn inspection of Ysgol O.M Edwards notes that the school provides a good standard of education. Y Parc pupils should therefore receive education which will be at least equal to that which is currently received.
- 7.5 Ysgol O.M Edwards' budget, if the proposal is implemented, is estimated at £223,462 (which is an additional £46,727). Having considered the additional costs of transporting primary children within the catchment-areas to the new area school (estimated at £15,000), there will be a saving of approximately £71,373 that will transfer to Gwynedd schools budget mainly to reduce class sizes. There is a commitment that the savings will be rotated within the Gwynedd education system and will consequently benefit the system.
- 7.6 The Council is working on a scheme to ensure that 20% of the savings will remain within the Berwyn catchment-area until the Council has completed the process of reviewing all the county's schools. The proposals for the Berwyn catchment area identify savings of around £140,272.
- 7.7 The Language Impact Assessment carried out on the proposal found that it would have a positive impact on the support for the Welsh language in the area and promote its development

8 Disadvantages of the preferred option

- 8.1 The school is a community resource in a rural community, and the school's closure would lead to losing that resource. The Community Impact Assessment indicates a perception that the proposal could have a negative impact on the community. Mitigating actions outlined in the report would need to be put in place to support the community during the transition.
- 8.2 Ysgol y Parc 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 to Llanycil 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.

- 8.3 There would be staffing implications which could lead to uncertainty and redundancies. There is currently a full time headteacher, a full-time teacher and support staff. Specific consultations will be held with the staff and union representatives as part of the current consultation. Gwynedd Council has developed a detailed staffing policy in collaboration with Trade Unions and headteachers. Any dismissals as a consequence of this proposal will be covered by this policy. Clear and open communication will have a core role in the successful implementation of any proposals.
- 8.4 The proposal would mean that pupils would need to travel from the Parc area to Llanuwchllyn on a daily basis if this would be the parents choice. The journey equates to an additional 3 miles.

9. What would be the impact of this proposal?

- 9.1 Ysgol Y Parc would close by 31 August 2012.
- 9.2 From 1 September 2012, children in the Parc catchment-area would be offered places at Ysgol O.M. Edwards.
- 9.3 Children from the Parc catchment-area would have 3 options when selecting a school, namely:
- attend Ysgol O.M. Edwards
 - attend another school if that school is closer to the home than Ysgol O.M. Edwards
 - apply as an out of catchment-area pupils from outside the catchment-area to another school if there is a place at the alternative school
- 9.4 Ysgol Y Parc is a designated community school and houses Parc's community centre. The Council has acknowledged this status and resolved to work with Community Leaders to safeguard community use of the building.
- 9.5 The Council's School Transport Scheme guarantees transport to the catchment-area school for every pupil residing within the school catchment-area, or to an alternative school if that school is closer to the pupil's home in line with the policy. In Summer 2009, 11 children of statutory primary age resided within the Parc catchment-area. These children will be entitled to free transport in compliance with the Council's Transport Policy.
- 9.6 Any 3 year old has a statutory entitlement to 10 hours nursery provision at a nursery or school. Berwyn catchment area schools may, but choose not to, provide nursery education at school. Nursery education is provided by playgroups.
- 9.7 A bid will be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government for capital funding to develop three rural schools in the Berwyn catchment area – including upgrading Ysgol O.M. Edwards.

10. Purpose of the consultation

- 10.1 This consultation is held to obtain your opinions on the proposal to close Ysgol Y Parc.

10.2 You are welcome to present your response in writing using the response form attached to this document. Letters of response should be sent to:

Seimon Williams
Schools Organisation Project Manager
Gwynedd Council
Council Offices
Shirehall Street
Caernarfon
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LL55 1SH

Or you can reply by e-mail and send them to:
school.organisation@gwynedd.gov.uk

The closing date for responses is **Friday 4 February 2011**. Any comments must reach the Council in written form or via e-mail by that date.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

**PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL Y PARC
TO BE IMPLEMENTED FROM 31 AUGUST 2012**

STATUTORY CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please provide the following details:

1. Name: _____

2. Address: _____

4. 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.

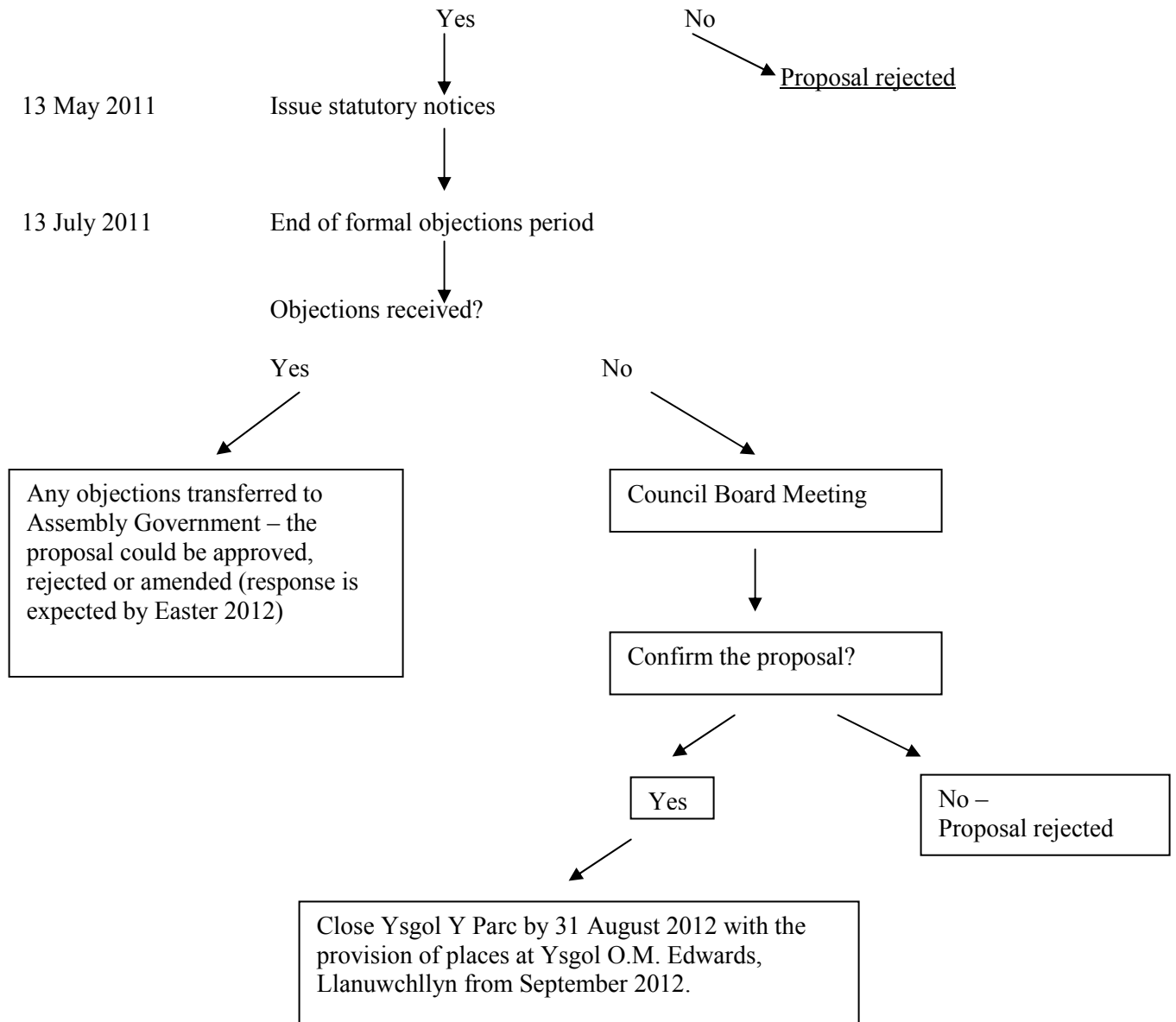
Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Gwynedd Council is seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, 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"/>
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No, the Council may not publish my response <input type="checkbox"/>

Timetable

- 13 December 2010 Disseminate consultation documents
- 10 January 2011 Consultation meetings for staff, governors and parents
- 04 February 2011 Closing date for receiving comments on the proposal
- 12 May 2011 The Council decides whether or not to issue statutory notices



APPENDIX 2

MINUTES OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

2.1 Ysgol Beuno Sant Meeting Minutes

BEUNO SANT STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING 18 January 2011 17:00-18:10 STAFF MEETING

Eleven members of staff were present, including the Head Teacher, teaching staff, ancillary staff and a Diocesan representative.

Welcome and Introductions

The Head of Education welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanks were expressed for the welcome received. Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, was introduced. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How This Proposal was Developed

The proposal was explained, namely to close Ysgolion y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid and create a Lifelong Learning Campus on the present Ysgol y Berwyn site, including using the present Ysgol Beuno Sant buildings.

This process had reached statutory consultation, when there was an opportunity for everyone to give their views. There would be an opportunity for pupils to give their views, with questionnaires having already been sent to the head of the school. Anyone was welcome to send their comments to the schools reorganization Project Manager by **4 February 2011**. It was explained that meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented a small number of slides on the educational vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. It was explained that an outline strategic bid for two developments had been sent to the Assembly in December:

- 1) Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop Bala rural schools. A bid for £10million, 70% Assembly money and 30% Council money.
- 2) A Special Needs School for Dwyfor and Meirionnydd children, to replace Ysgol Hafod Lon. The new school would provide a similar service to that of Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon.

An initial response to the bids was expected from the Government in late January, but a final response would not be received for some months. It was noted that the Catchment Review Panel's discussions had looked at the principle of developing a brand new campus but with the change in Government and the cuts it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. The proposal therefore for Bala town was to upgrade the buildings of Berwyn with some new buildings and upgrading work on other parts of the site.

A consultant (who was formerly a secondary school head in the County) presented slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions namely:

- What is a Lifelong Learning Community
- What are the advantages of the development
- What had been achieved up to that time in Bala?

It was noted that a user group had been established to discuss the development, including representatives from the three schools concerned. The group agreed that what would be established would not be primary and secondary schools but one school with a new structure on three levels:

- 1) KS1 2) KS2 & KS3 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides involved with property objectives. An initial concept was shown, to give the audience an idea of the kind of development envisaged. It was emphasized that the picture was an initial concept, to inspire debate, and that there was an opportunity for representatives. The audience were encouraged to give their views and share their ideas with their representatives on the user group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have a new building, to have a new building for KS1 and KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (a library and a team around the child).

The Personnel Manager presented slides on guidance and support from the Personnel Department. It was explained that discussions were going on with the teachers' unions and support staff unions (a UNISON officer was present at the meeting). An alternative policy was receiving attention at that time and it was hoped that Gwynedd school governors would accept it. No decision had been made so it would not be possible to discuss specific details but the officer was there to inform staff that officers were available to provide support. It was noted that the officer was aware that any changes caused concern for the staff and two email contacts were provided if the staff needed help or more information.

The meeting was opened out to take questions or comments regarding the debate up to then.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

The audience asked who specifically should the different staff contact.

Ancillary staff to contact Gwenno Williams and teaching staff to contact Sandra Evans and Nia Gruffydd.

One member of the audience noted that she was glad of the lifelong idea but that KS1 and KS2 pupils needed to be separate from the other age groups.

This point was accepted. It was explained that the concept in establishing the structure for the school would be to create one KS2 and KS3 unit but that KS2 pupils would be located in the primary building. The Corporate Property Manager noted that input would be required from the people of the area including heads, staff, governors, parents and pupils during the formal process, on the exact design of the building. There would be an exhibition with an architect and an opportunity for everyone to give their views.

The head noted that she had had an opportunity to visit a school in Pembrokeshire and Ysgol Eifion Wyn and it was very useful to know which aspects of the development worked and learn which ones did not.

The Corporate Property Manager noted that the process behind the project to develop Ysgol Eifion Wyn was completely different to the BREEAM that would be happening in developing the lifelong campus. There would be an opportunity to visit the new Ysgol yr Hendre after it was completed.

In combining secondary and lower level teachers, how exactly would subject provision be presented?

The Head of Education responded that there was an opportunity to develop a new system and this would be a matter for a governing body and the leadership of the new school. It would be possible, for example, to give responsibility for one subject to the same subject head across the whole age range (3-19).

The audience asked about the nursery provision.

The school would have the ability to provide nursery education on the lifelong campus but the matter of who would run the provision would be a one for another discussion.

The Head of Education noted that discussions with the Church had been extremely positive and that he appreciated this. It was noted that discussions would continue as part of the process of developing the new campus.

Return to the statutory document.

Background Leading to the Consultation Exercise

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Ysgolion y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Consideration of Options

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Factors Supporting the Preferred Option

Point 7.10 (Ysgol Beuno Sant being a Voluntary Aided Church School) was important to the audience, it was asked what assurance there would be of safeguarding the Christian ethos.

The Head of Education responded that discussions were going on between the Church and representatives of the Council's legal department regarding legal matters. The school would be expected to uphold the same Christian aspect as existed in every school in the County.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

What would be the Impact of this Proposal?

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Purpose of the Consultation

The Head of Education noted again that there was an opportunity to express comments to the reorganization project manager by **Friday 4 February 2011**.

A member of the public asked what would happen if the money was not available.

The Education Portfolio Holder responded that it would not be possible to continue with the proposal since it depended entirely on receiving funding from the Government. If the money did not come, this strategy would stop and reorganization discussions would have to begin again. There would be cuts to come and so there would have to be change in the education system in the catchment area. Lobbying work would go on to try to ensure the success of the proposal. An initial response from the Government was expected that month and a final decision towards the summer.

Thanks and Closure

The Head of Education thanked the staff for attending and for their contribution. The meeting ended at 18:10.

BEUNO SANT STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING
18 January 2011 18:30-19:05
PARENTS' MEETING

There were eleven present in the audience, including the Head Teacher and a Diocesan representative.

Welcome and Introductions

The Head of Education welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanks were expressed for the welcome received. Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, was introduced. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How This Proposal was Developed

The proposal was explained, namely to close Ysgolion y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid and create a Lifelong Learning Campus on the present Ysgol y Berwyn site, including using the present Ysgol Beuno Sant buildings.

This process had reached statutory consultation, when there was an opportunity for everyone to give their views. There would be an opportunity for pupils to give their views, with questionnaires having already been sent to the head of the school. Anyone was welcome to send their comments to the schools reorganization Project Manager by **4 February 2011**. It was explained that the meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented a small number of slides on the educational vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. It was explained that an outline strategic bid for two developments had been sent to the Assembly in December:

- 1) Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop Bala rural schools. A bid for £10million, 70% Assembly money and 30% Council money.
- 2) A Special Needs School for Dwyfor and Meirionnydd children, to replace Ysgol Hafod Lon. The new school would provide a similar service to that of Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon.

An initial response to the bids was expected from the Government in late January, but a final response would not be received for some months. It was noted that the Catchment Review Panel's discussions had looked at the principle of developing a brand new campus but with the change in Government and the cuts it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. The proposal therefore for Bala town was to upgrade the buildings of Berwyn with some new buildings and upgrading work on other parts of the site.

A consultant (who was formerly a secondary school head in the County) presented slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions namely:

- What is a Lifelong Learning Community
- What are the advantages of the development
- What had been achieved up to that time in Bala?

It was noted that a user group had been established to discuss the development, including representatives from the three schools concerned. The group agreed that what would be established would not be primary and secondary schools but one school with a new structure on three levels: 1) KS1 2) KS2 & KS3 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides involved with property objectives. An initial concept was shown, to give the audience an idea of the kind of development envisaged. It was emphasized that the picture was an initial concept, to inspire debate, and that there was an opportunity for representatives. The audience were encouraged to give their views and share their ideas with their representatives on the user group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have a new building, to have a new building for KS1 and KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (a library and a team around the child).

The meeting was opened out to take questions or comments regarding the debate up to then.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

Would the nursery department be in the KS1 department?

There would be a specific area for the foundation phase because the class would need to be extended outdoors, and the nursery department would be part of that. It would be a matter for the campus to decide whether the school or a nursery movement would run the provision.

One member of the audience noted that she was satisfied with the pictures in the presentation, it was very useful having something visible.

This point was appreciated and it was noted that the Council was aware of the need to consult local people when designing. The Corporate Property Manager noted that input would be required from the people of the area including heads, staff, governors, parents and pupils during the formal process. There would be an exhibition with an architect and an opportunity for everyone to give their opinion. In the Hendre project, some of the pupils' ideas had been included in the final design.

One member of the audience noted that offering a new school with good resources benefited the children's future.

The head noted that the children had filled in questionnaires to give their views on the changes and the responses were very interesting. Most of them were looking forward and stated that it would be an advantage to have new resources. Their responses to the question "What makes a good school" were confident and positive. The staff were glad to see them showing an interest.

The Head of Education responded that the children's contribution was appreciated and considered.

One member of the audience asked whether children would receive help in another school e.g. a language unit continuing to receive this provision.

The Corporate Property Manager responded that the special needs unit located at Berwyn at that time would be lost, but that it was too soon to know for certain where it would be located. The children would not lose current provisions.

The meeting returned to the statutory document.

Background Leading to the Consultation Exercise

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Ysgolion y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Consideration of Options

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Factors Supporting the Preferred Option

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

What would be the Impact of this Proposal?

No questions on this part of the statutory document.

Purpose of the Consultation

The Head of Education noted again that there was an opportunity to present comments to the reorganization project manager by **Friday 4 February 2011**.

One member of the audience noted that it was important that people presented comments to support the application if they were of that view. The consultation was not just an opportunity for comments against the application.

The audience asked whether it was intended to close the three schools in 2015. If 18 months were needed for the building work, when would the school be ready?

The Corporate Property Manager replied that it was intended to have the lifelong campus ready before the three present schools were closed. Parents' concerns regarding the construction period were understandable. However, this problem had been encountered before (he referred to Ysgol Glan y Môr recently) and with careful planning, collaboration and flexibility he was confident the development could be completed with as little effect as possible on the users.

The Education Portfolio Holder noted that it would not be possible to continue with this proposal if capital funding was not received from the Government. If the money was not available, this strategy would have to be reconsidered and reorganization discussions begun again. There would be cuts to come and so there would have to be change in the education system in the catchment area. Lobbying work would go on to try to ensure the success of the proposal. There would be an initial response from the Assembly that month and a final decision before the summer.

Thanks and Closure

The Head of Education thanked the parents for attending and for their contribution. The meeting ended at 19:05.

GOVERNORS' MEETING

There were 11 members present including the Head and the Diocesan representative.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Head of Education and he gave thanks for the welcome. He introduced Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder. It was explained that other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The head asked when the minutes would be available?

The Head of Education responded that they would be sent as soon as possible.

One of the audience noted that they had received a statutory document with a proposal to close rather than a statutory document proposing to close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and establish a 3-19 community school on the new lifelong learning campus in Y Bala.

Additional copies of the document were distributed by the Head.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How was this Proposal Developed?

The proposal was explained, that is to close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and create a Lifelong Campus on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn including using the present Ysgol Beuno Sant building.

The process has reached statutory consultation where there is an opportunity for all to contribute comments. There will be an opportunity for pupils to respond with questionnaires having already been sent to the school head. Anyone is welcome to send comments to the schools reorganisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. He explained that this meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented some slides on the education vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. He explained that the outline strategy scheme bid had been sent to the Assembly in December for two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop Bala's rural schools. Bid for £10million, 70% Assembly funds and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – instead of Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for Dwyfor and Meirionnydd children. The new school will be like Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon.

The response to the bids by the Government is expected at the end of January but it will be some months before there is a final response. It was noted that the principle of developing a brand new campus was discussed in the catchment area review panel (PAD) but with the change of Government and cuts, it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. The proposal therefore for Bala town is to upgrade the Berwyn buildings, together with some new buildings, and upgrading work on other parts of the site.

A consultant (a former secondary head in the County) slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions:

- What is a Lifelong Learning Community

- What are the development's advantages,
- What has been achieved so far in Y Bala?

It was noted that a users group had been established to discuss the development consisting of representatives of the three schools involved. The hope is that it will be possible to extend the membership of the group in the near future. The group agreed that there will not be a primary and secondary school established but one school with a new structure and three levels:

1) KS1 2) KS2 & KS3 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides regarding property aims. He showed the initial concept to give the audience and idea of the kind of development under consideration. He emphasised that the picture was an initial concept to trigger a discussion and that this was an opportunity for representatives. The audience was encouraged to voice their opinion and share their ideas with the representatives on the users group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have another new building for it, have a new building for KS1 & KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that the community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and around the child team).

The meeting was opened to give an opportunity for questions or comments in response to the discussion so far.

Questions and Comments for the Audience

Will there be much change for staff? What will happen before the shadow governing body is established and a head appointed?

The Head of Education responded that there would be a period of uncertainty before the governing body and head were appointed but that staff rights would be respected. A move could be made towards appointing a shadow governing body after the final decision to establish the school is made.

Questions were asked about the capital costs of the new scheme considering possible inflation over the period of building work. It was further asked what would happen if the financial bid was unsuccessful?

It was acknowledged that inflation could affect the capital funding. The Education Portfolio Holder noted that the bid was completely dependent on ensuring grant funding from the Government. It would not be possible to continue with this proposal if no capital funding is received from the Assembly. Without capital grant the strategy would fail and the reorganisation discussions would have to be re-started. It was noted that there were cuts on the way and so there would have to be a change to the education organisation in the catchment area. A commitment was made to continue with the lobbying work to try and ensure the success of the proposal. An initial response is expected from the Government during the next few months with a final decision over the Summer. If a positive response is received, the Council will be required to formulate a detailed business plan.

The head noted perhaps the Council would have to be more radical in the catchment area if the financial bid is unsuccessful. Some do not understand or appreciate that Gwynedd Council is trying not to be as strict as it could be.

The officers said that Powys Council had announced that they were considering the future of every school with fewer than 30 children.

The Education Portfolio Holder noted that the financial bid for Ysgol y Groeslon (which is the school in the worst condition throughout the county) has 90 children and the bid was refused because of the lack of strategy which included neighbouring schools.

One member of the audience asked why the financial bid new primary area school in Tywyn had obtained £7.4 million while the Bala lifelong campus had had less by comparison?

The Tywyn bid had happened before the Westminster election and the announcement of the cuts. In the past, there was an opportunity to give financial bid every year but now there is only an opportunity every three years and a reasonable bid which had a chance of being successful had to be made. The Corporate Property Manager added that the figure of £7.4million included upgrading three rural schools as well as the new school. Also the site in Tywyn has to be purchased and adaptations have to be made to the entrance.

The audience noted the Church aspect of the school and the legal requirements of the Beuno Sant site. Did the Council need the building of Ysgol Beuno Sant to realise the scheme?

Discussions have been going on between representatives of the Church and the Council's legal department representatives. The Christian aspect of the school is a matter for the governing body but there is an expectation that the school ethos will be similar to that which exists in every school in the County. The Head of Education noted that the support of the Church had been essential during the discussions to develop this proposal and that it was appropriate to thank them

The audience asked what would happen to the secondary pupils' present education during the period of building? If the lifelong campus opens in 2015, when will the work start?

The Corporate Property Manager responded by noting that the period of building was likely to be around 18 months and that it could not be denied that it would be a challenge to try and develop the site with it still being in daily use. However, it is not a problem that has not been faced before (he referred to Ysgol Glan y Môr recently) and with careful planning, working together and flexibility, he was confident that the development could be completed with as little effect as possible on the users. He noted that the aim was to have the lifelong campus ready before the three present schools are closed.

The Head of Education noted if there was confirmation of the funding being accepted but that there was a delay, the Council would have the option of starting the scheme sooner by using the Council's matched funding (30% of the total costs of the project).

Would the posts in the new school be completely open? Will the head of KS2 & KS3 be a post for a primary or secondary teacher? Will the head have to come from an educational background?

The Council will recommend that the staff of the three schools should have the first opportunity. The head of the Lifelong campus is expected to be an educator. A management group would run the other parts with close links to the head. The KS2 & KS3 post would be open to the staff of the three schools and the best individual to lead this period will be appointed, It will be the same principle with the head of KS4 & KS5.

The document notes "Lifelong school" and the introduction notes a "Learning campus", which is correct?

The campus will be for the whole community and within it there will be a school.

Return to the statutory document and the Head of Education noted that the audience asked a question when going through the sections.

The Background leading the Consultation

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant Schools

Regarding the condition of the buildings, is money needed to upgrade the buildings included in the £10million? In the meantime is there a change in responsibility for the maintenance of the buildings?

The Corporate Property Manager responded that the figures in the Council's Asset Management Scheme denote the expenditure that would be needed if the lifelong campus was not fulfilled.

Would 'portakabins' be used during the building work? Will the playing field be lost during the work?

It was not used when upgrading Glan Y Môr. The field will not be lost, that sports provision will have to be kept but it is possible that the whole field will not be available for pupils during the period of building.

Considering the Choices

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Factors supporting the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

What would be the Effect of this Proposal?

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Purpose of Consultation

The Head of Education reiterated that there was an opportunity to submit comments to the reorganisation project manager by **Friday 4 February 2011**.

Thanks and Conclusion

The Head of Education thanked staff for attending and for their contributions. The meeting finished at 21:10.

2.2 Ysgol Bro Tegid Meeting Minutes

BRO TEGID STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING 19 January 2011 STAFF MEETING

16 staff and a union representative present.

Welcome and Presentations

The Head of Education welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Cllr Liz Saville Roberts, Education Portfolio Holder. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced before they spoke.

The Proposal, The Statutory Consultation and How was This Proposal Developed?

It was explained that the proposal made was clear, namely closure of Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and create a Lifelong School on the current site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

It was noted that the process had now reached the statutory consultation stage where everybody has an opportunity to present their comments. Pupils will have an opportunity to respond through questionnaires that have already been sent to the school headteacher. Anybody is welcome to send comments to the schools re-organisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. It was explained that this meeting formed part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper was being discussed.

Presentation

The educational vision for the catchment-area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding were presented. It was noted that the education system continually changed as regards the educational element, and that there were expectations as regards the learning environment and to develop schools for the 21stC. The importance of this development for the entire Berwyn catchment-area was also noted and that its impact needed to be scrutinized beyond the town boundaries.

It was explained that an outline strategy planning application had been sent to the Assembly in December for two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop rural schools in Bala. Application for £10million, 70% Assembly funding and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – rather than Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for children from Dwyfor and Meirionnydd. The new school would be similar to Ysgol Pendalar at Caernarfon.

During the catchment-area review panel discussions, (PAD) establishing a new campus was considered, but with the change in Government and the cuts, a reasonable bid would have to be made that was likely to be approved.

Slides on the lifelong community were presented when focusing on answering the three questions:

- A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community,
- B) What are the advantages that would accrue from the development,
- C) What has been achieved thus far at Y Bala?

The educational benefits of establishing the lifelong school were noted:

- Ameliorate problems when preparing learning periods
- Strengthen the relationship between the school and the family
- Ensure consistency of ethos and expectations
- Meaningful joint-planning between the learning periods
- Share staff specializations e.g. share teaching methods and subject-based specializations.

The Users Group that has been established to discuss the development, was mentioned. The group includes representatives from the three schools concerned. Hopefully, the membership of this group will increase in the near future. The group agreed that a primary and secondary school would not be established but rather one, newly structured school consisting of three levels:

- 1) KS1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The provision for the community being considered for assimilation on the campus was outlined:

- A multi-purpose hall
- Work with children and their families
- Community rooms
- Technology Block

The measures thus far taken as regards discussions at y Bala were mentioned

- Establish a Users Group – local representatives from the local Educational world; the concept of one school innovation came from the area
- Management system - Management Group representing users; day to day management will be local but within the Council's current Services

Project property aims were presented.

- Design a suitable and safe building for every age-group e.g. consider age-range and public access
- It was explained that the Users Group had a crucial role in site development
- The concept was explained of the design for the site to assimilate the social elements, the hall, Library etc.
- Suggestions for a possible design to realize the concept were presented.

An initial concept to provide the audience with some idea of the type of development under consideration, was shown. It was emphasized that the picture was an initial concept. It was explained that there would be an opportunity to share ideas with the Users Group. The principal changes would be to demolish the current technology buildings and incorporate a new building in it. construct a new building for KS1 and KS2 education, up-grade the hall and obtain community-based resources on the current site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and team around the children). Pictures were shown of examples of elements at a 21stC school obtained from other places

Information was presented on the guidance and support available from the Personnel Service. It was explained that discussions were being held with officers, teachers unions and support staff (a UNISON officer present). An alternative policy is currently receiving attention and hopefully will be received by Gwynedd school governors. No decision has been taken, therefore specific details could not be discussed but staff are notified that officers are available to provide support. She noted that she was aware that any change caused staff concern and two contact e-mails were provided should staff require support or further information: sandraelizabethevans@gwynedd.gov.uk & niagruffudd2@gwynedd.gov.uk.

An opportunity was provided to ask questions or comments in response.

Questions from and Audience's Comments

Will there be one kitchen on the site?

One kitchen will be on the site. Developing the site provides an opportunity to review current provision and facilities.

Will there be an opportunity to serve the community from the kitchen?

It was noted that this was a very interesting suggestion and that developing such provision was a possibility. It was noted that this suggestion could be referred to the Users Group for consideration.

Will there be redundancies?

It is a possibility, but the exact staffing structure is to be developed, having said that, there may be opportunities to scrutinize the staffing structure. This would ultimately be a matter for the school's governors.

This therefore, brings neuadd Buddug resource and staff into the picture?

Yes, and including the provision of neuadd Buddug as part of the proposed development has been considered. A Management Group will be established, to take an overview at a local level of the lifelong campus so as to ensure effective use of resources in the whole area.

What about community use of the resources during school hours; will that be possible?

Use is currently made of the library that is on the same site as Ysgol y Berwyn. This varied use will need to be considered when developing the design. It is a responsibility to ensure the safety of everybody who will be on the site and ensure its effective use.

It has been mentioned that this development will ameliorate some problems that occur during the transition stage between key stages, the current transitional stage between Primary and Secondary. How will that work with the rural schools which will not form part of the lifelong school?

In line with the aspiration voiced during local discussions – the entire catchment-area will benefit from the campus. A flexible ethos will have to be developed where schools within the entire catchment-area are part of the educational plans, but there will also be everyday involvement. The rural schools will need an opportunity to nurture the collaboration, and therefore neither the transition phase nor the practical contact will occur between the learning periods

Will the cost of new equipment be included in the development?

New necessary resources will be included in the cost of the development

How many classes will be included within the learning periods?

Class sizes will correspond to total number of pupils

Will there be a gymnasium for the primary school age children?

It is currently being considered, but no detailed arrangements thus far. The hall can also be used for various purposes.

Will there be 2 halls?

That is being considered but the equipment will be multi-purpose

Empty rooms are important, especially to ensure the pastoral element at the school.

This type of provision is considered as being part of the community-based element. There is also an application for a staffroom and separate preparation room.

The importance of having suitable play facilities for the age-group was noted.

The rest of the statutory document was presented:

The rest of the statutory document was presented, per section, inviting comments/questions.

The Background Leading to the Consultation

It was stated that options had been considered and evaluated before making the recommendation. The correction in the statutory document was mentioned. The correction was that a mudiad meithrin provides nursery education in the town, and not grwp meithrin.

It was also explained that the governors would decide who will provide nursery education in the town, but that there would be nursery education provision in the building.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools

No questions regarding this section of the statutory document.

Consider the Options

No questions regarding this section of the statutory document.

Factors that support the Preferred Choice

No questions regarding this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Choice

No questions regarding this section of the statutory document.

What Impact would this Proposal have?

No questions regarding this section of the statutory document.

What happens if the funding is not received?

Further measures would have to be considered, if funding is not allocated, much work is required to ensure that funding is allocated.

Thanks and Conclusion

The Head of Education thanked the staff for attending and for their contributions.

**BRO TEGID STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING
19 January 2011
GOVERNORS MEETING**

7 Governors attended

Welcome and Presentations

The Head of Education welcomed everybody to the meeting and Cllr Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, was welcomed. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced before they spoke.

The Proposal, The Statutory Consultation and How This Proposal was Developed?

It was explained that the submitted proposal was clear, close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and establish a Lifelong School on the current site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

It was explained that the process had reached the statutory consultation phase where everybody would have an opportunity to present their comments. Pupils would have an opportunity to respond through questionnaires that have already been sent to the school's headteacher. All were invited to send comments to the schools re-organisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. It was explained that this meeting formed part of statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Presentation

The educational vision for the catchment-area and the application to the Assembly for capital funding was presented. It was noted that the education system constantly changed with regard to the educational element, and that there were also expectations as regards the learning environment and to develop schools for the 21stC. Also noted was this development's importance for the entire catchment-area in the Berwyn and that its possible impact beyond the boundaries of the town required scrutiny.

It was explained that an outline strategy plan application had been sent in December to the Assembly on two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop rural schools at Y Bala. Application for £10 million, 70% Assembly Funding and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – instead of Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for children in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd. The new school will be similar to Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon

In catchment-area review panel discussions (PAD), establishing a new campus was considered, but given the change of Government and the cuts, a reasonable and realistic bid would have to be submitted that would be likely to succeed.

Slides on the lifelong community were presented when focussing on answering the three questions:

- A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community,
- B) What are the advantages of the development,
- C) What has thus far been achieved at Bala?

The educational benefits of establishing the lifelong school were noted:

- Ameliorate problems when presenting learning periods
- Strengthen the relationship between the school and the family
- Ensure consistent ethos and expectations
- Meaningful joint-planning between the learning periods
- Share staff specializations e.g. share learning methods and subject-based specializations.

The Users Group was mentioned that has been established to discuss the development. The group includes representatives from the three schools in question. Hopefully, the membership of this group can be increased in the near future. The group agreed that a primary and secondary school would not be established; rather one newly structured school consisting of three levels:

- 1) KS1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The provision for the community for which assimilation on the campus is being considered was outlined:

- A multi-purpose hall
- Work with children and their families
- Community rooms
- Technology Block

The measures taken thus far as regards discussions at Bala were noted

- Establish a Users Group – local representation from the local Educational world, the concept of innovating with one school has come from the area
- Management system - Management Group representing users; day to day management will be local but within the Council's present Services

The project property objectives were presented.

- Design a suitable and safe building for every age-group e.g. consider age-range and public access
- It was explained that the Users Group had a crucial role when developing the site
- The concept of the design for the site to assimilate the social elements, the hall, library etc was explained
- Suggestions were presented for a possible design to realise the concept.

An initial concept was shown, to show the audience the type of development that is being considered. It was emphasised that the picture was an initial concept. It was explained that there will be an opportunity to share ideas with the Users Group. The main changes would involve demolishing the current technology buildings and construct a new building, obtain a new building for KS1 and KS2 education, up-grade the hall and construct community-based resources on the current site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and team around the children). Some pictures of examples of elements at a 21stC school from other places were shown

There was an opportunity to ask questions or offer comments in response.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

Regarding the hall, and whether the school will benefit from Neuadd Buddug finance?

It was explained that a local Management Group would hold an overview of the day to day service provision but that management would be retained within a relevant Service in the Council. Therefore, the specific budget will not transfer to the school, but that does not imply that the situation will not change should the local Management Group so wish in future.

Finance salaries etc will transfer, with a slight saving due to not having to maintain 2 buildings

What will happen to Neuadd Buddug?

It is a Council owned building, and therefore the usual assets handling procedure will apply. The Council implements a policy whereby the community has the opportunity to present a business case before the building is disposed of as an asset before it is placed on the open market.

Concern was expressed about various aspects related to parking problems on the site.

It was explained that a study of the current traffic was currently being undertaken and would be taken into account in the plan.

Will there be a separate dining room for primary children?

Yes – such a provision is currently considered as being a requirement in the new design. Note that governors will have an opportunity to have further input to the design.

Will the school start with a financial clean slate?

Legally, it will be an established new school.

Will the school benefit from the cinema income?

That would depend on the local management system through the Management Group, but as was previously explained, at the outset the services will be managed within the Council's current services.

Can the police resources in the community be accommodated?

There is an opportunity for the police to be part of the development as well as other public services to show an interest.

What if there is no sixth form in future?

The age-group attending the school will change in such a situation. The current school will be planned to cater for the sixth form, but we gather that there is the possibility of future change.

Will there be an impact during the construction phase?

There will be a new building as regards a primary element, therefore, there will not be a substantial impact, but from past experience, developmental work can be undertaken on school sites. A development at another school where construction work has been done, was mentioned – where there was not an excessive impact on education.

Development work will be undertaken, step by step.

The rest of the statutory document was presented:

The rest of the statutory document was presented section by section, inviting comments/questions.

The Background that Led to the Consultation

It was pointed out that options had been considered and evaluated before arriving at the recommendation.

The correction in the statutory document was noted. The correction was that mudiad meithrin provide nursery education in the town and not grwp meithrin.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant Schools

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Consider the Options

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Factors in Support of the Preferred Option

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Choice

No questions were asked regarding this section of the statutory document.

What Impact would this Proposal Have?

No questions were asked regarding this section of the statutory document.

Will the current leisure centre move?

The town currently has a leisure centre, the initial idea was to house all services on one site, including the leisure centre. This is not possible, but a local pattern of collaboration could be established through the Management Group.

Thanks and Conclusion

The governors were thanked for attending and for their contributions.

BRO TEGID STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING 19 January 2011 PARENTS MEETING

9 parents attended

Welcome and Presentations

The Head of Education welcomed everybody to the meeting and Cllr Liz Saville Roberts, Education Portfolio Holder, was introduced. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced before they spoke.

The Proposal, The Statutory Consultation and How This Proposal was Developed?

It was explained that there was a clearly outlined proposal, namely closure of Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and establish a Lifelong School on the current site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

It was explained that the process had reached the statutory consultation phase where everybody had an opportunity to submit comments. Pupils will have an opportunity to respond through questionnaires that have already been sent to the school headteacher.. All are welcome to send comments to the school re-organisation project manager by no later than **4 February 2011**. It was explained that this meeting formed part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Presentation

The educational vision for the catchment-area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding, were presented. It was noted that the educational element of the education system continually changed, and that there were also expectations regarding the learning environment and to develop schools for the 21stC. The importance of this development for the entire Berwyn catchment-area was also noted and that it required scrutiny beyond the confines of the town.

It was explained that an outline strategic plan application had been sent to the Assembly in December regarding two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop rural schools at Bala. Application for £10million, 70% Assembly Funding and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – rather than Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for children in Dwyfor and Meirionnydd. The new school would be along similar lines to Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon and would be established in the Penrhyndeudraeth/Porthmadog area.

During catchment-area review panel discussions, (PAD) establishing a new campus was under consideration, but given the change of Government and the cuts, a reasonable application would need to be submitted that was likely to be approved.

Slides on the lifelong community were presented when focusing on answering the three questions:

- A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community,
- B) What are the advantages of the development,
- C) What has thus far been achieved at Bala?

The educational advantages of establishing the lifelong school were noted:

- Ameliorate problems when presenting learning periods
- Strengthen the relationship between the school and the family
- Secure consistent ethos and expectations
- Meaningful joint-planning between the learning periods
- Share staff specializations e.g. Share teaching methods and subject-based specializations.

The Users Group was mentioned, that has been established to discuss the development. The group includes representatives from the three schools in question. Hopefully, membership of this group can be increased in the near future. The group agreed that a primary and secondary school would not be established; but rather one school with a new structure with three levels:

- 1) KS1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The available provision for the community that it is considered to assimilate on the campus was outlined:

- Multi-purpose hall
- Work with children and their families
- Community rooms
- Technology Block

The steps thus far taken as regards discussions at Bala were outlined

- Establish a Users Group – local representatives from the Educational world at a local level, the concept of a single school innovation has been instigated by the area
- Management system - Management Group representing users; day to day management will be local but within the Council's current Services

The project property aims were presented.

- Design a suitable and safe building to cater for every age-group e.g. consider age-range and public access
- It was explained that the Users Group had a crucial role in site development
- The concept of the site design assimilating social elements, the hall, library etc, was explained
- Suggestions were presented for a possible design for the concept to be realised.

An initial concept was shown to provide the audience with an idea of the kind of development under consideration. It was emphasised that the picture was an initial concept. It was explained that an opportunity would be provided to share ideas with the Users Group. The principal changes would be the demolition of the current technology buildings and construct a new building, establish a new building for KS 1 and KS2 education, up-grade the hall and obtain community-based resources on the current site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and team around the child). Pictures of examples of elements at 21C school from other areas, were shown.

An opportunity was provided to ask questions or comments in response.

Questions and Comments from the Audience

How much will the current Berwyn building be developed?

That depends on the exact cost of the developmental elements and the ultimately available budget. The wish from the outset was to obtain new buildings – but the financial climate has changed, and the application had to be realistic – so as to ensure a successful bid.

Other counties have submitted bids - past bids for substantial funding have failed, we wished to ensure the success of this bid, therefore it had to be a realistic bid.

What will happen to buildings that become vacant?

In accordance with the Council's assets handling policy, the community will have an opportunity to develop a business case for use of the building. This will depend on the community's wishes, otherwise, it will be put on the open market. Officers would be on hand to provide support to develop a business case if so desired.

There was relief that this development addressed the vulnerable situation of Neuadd Buddug.

What happens to the sports element?

The town currently has a leisure centre, the initial idea was to house all services on one site, including the leisure centre. This is no longer possible, but a local pattern of collaboration could be established through the Management Group.

Comments were presented and concern was expressed about the current leisure resource, and about the lack of external facilities

It was noted that an in-depth discussion on this matter had not thus far been held in the Users Group, but that there is a need to ensure input on the leisure/sports element. It was noted that input from individuals to the Users Group, regarding this matter, was welcomed.

There was concern that there were practical problems arising from use of the centre, due to its location i.e. travel time, risk assessments etc.

It was agreed that a challenge was posed as regards ensuring effective use of local resources. During development, there would be an opportunity for further discussions, and children could have an input.

How will you secure children's input to this development?

Sessions will be held with the pupils to hear their ideas. The Council has already done that with regard to other developments in the County, and this has proved to be beneficial.

Have you considered what occurs in other neighbouring counties as regards threat of school closures etc?

Yes, and further discussions will need to be held with parents and children from other counties during the course of this discussion.

Considering the transfer period, will the situation of transferring children from rural schools to the secondary element not become more difficult, taking into consideration that a large number of primary school children are already part of the lifelong school?

The most developmental element will be the collaborative element within the entire area and beyond, To meet the aspiration expressed during discussions held locally – the entire community will benefit from the campus.

A flexible ethos will have to be developed where schools within the entire catchment-area are part of educational plans, but there will also be everyday involvement. The rural schools will require an opportunity to nurture the collaboration, and consequently neither the transfer period nor the practical contact will occur between the learning periods. There will be the opportunity and potential to obtain thematic teaching etc.

When this question was asked in other areas – the response was that it is not a problem.

What will happen if funding is not received?

It was explained that a realistic bid had been submitted, if it is rejected, then the scheme will have to be re-considered. It was noted that another Council was now looking towards setting a minimum for school and it was noted that the Assembly was currently in consultations on this idea. It was also explained that the Assembly now implemented per 3 year funding arrangements. Therefore, considering that, it can be judged that this area has an opportunity that is not provided for other areas.

As a general point, it was noted that this safeguarded secondary education and that the development was to be welcomed and that the area needed to make the most of the opportunity. It was noted that there was concern about how much work and improvements are carried out at y Berwyn.

Where will the money obtained from selling the buildings that become empty, go?

It will be handled as an asset for the County.

There was a question about how to secure the leisure/sports resources?

It was proposed that a sub-group be established to scrutinize this aspect as part of the Users Group

There is concern about the current lack of leisure resources.

There would be scope therefore, through the Management Group, to secure an improvement.

Regarding community use – will there be limited use as regards time?

Planning will be imperative so as to ensure best use of the available resources, but also ensure that safety is prioritized. There will be local management of the resources through the local Management Group, and an opportunity to make local use.

As regards staffing – will there be a split across learning periods?

There will be an opportunity to share teaching methods, as well as subject-based specializations. Some teachers will gain more benefit from this than others.

It is imperative to ensure that there is adequate room outside for the primary learning periods.

This will require further consideration when drawing up planning for the school

What if trends and numbers increase?

The school may be planned in such a manner as to ensure future development if required

If this funding does not become available, will this occur? Will investment otherwise be put into y Berwyn?

If the funding is not received, the plan for the catchment-area would have to be re-considered. The sole funding available for investment would be that available in accordance with the County's buildings maintenance investment programme.

The rest of the statutory document was presented:

The rest of the statutory document was presented per section, inviting comments/questions.

The Background that Led to the Consultation

It was pointed out that options had been considered and weighed up in reaching the recommendation. The correction in the statutory document was mentioned. The correction was that nursery education in the town was provided by mudiad meithrin and not grwp meithrin.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant schools

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Consider the Options

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Factors that Support the Preferred Option

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

What Impact would this Proposal have?

No question asked as regards this section of the statutory document.

Thanks and Conclusion

Parents were thanked for attending and for their contributions.

2.3 Ysgol Y Berwyn

Y BERWYN STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE MEETING 13 January 2011 16:00-17:35 STAFF MEETING

There were 41 staff present including the Head and teaching staff and supplementary staff.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Head of Education and he introduced Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, It was explained that other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How was this Proposal Developed?

The proposal was clearly explained, to close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and create a Lifelong Campus on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

The process has reached statutory consultation where there is an opportunity for all to contribute comments. There will be an opportunity for pupils to respond with questionnaires having already been sent to the school head. Anyone is welcome to send comments to the schools reorganisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. He explained that this meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented some slides on the education vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. He explained that the outline strategy scheme bid had been sent to the Assembly in December for two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop' the campus and develop Bala's rural schools. Bid for £10million, 70% Assembly funds and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – rather than Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for Dwyfor and Meirionnydd children. The new school will be like Ysgol Pendar in Arfon and will be established in the Penrhyndeudraeth/Porthmadog area.

There will be a preliminary response at the end of January and some months before a firm decision. In the discussions of the catchment area review panel (PAD) a brand new campus was considered but with the change of Government and cuts, it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. Now the initial plan is to upgrade the Berwyn buildings, together with some new buildings.

A consultant (a former secondary head in the County) slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions: A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community, B) What are the development's advantages, C) What has been achieved so far in Y Bala? It was mentioned that a users group had been established to discuss the development. The groups consist of representatives of the three schools involved. The hope is that it will be possible to extend the membership of the group in the near future. The group agreed that there will not be a primary and secondary school established but one school with a new structure and three levels:

- 1) CA1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides regarding property aims. He showed the initial concept to give the audience and idea of the kind of development under consideration. He emphasised that the picture was an initial concept to trigger a discussion and that this was an opportunity for representatives.

The audience was encouraged to voice their opinion and share their ideas with the users group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have another new building for it, have a new building for KS1 & KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that the community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and around the child team).

The Personnel Manager presented slides concerned with guidance and support of the Personnel Department. She explained that discussions were ongoing with teachers' union officers and supplementary staff (a UNISON officer was present in the meeting). By now an alternative policy is being looked at and the hope is that the governors of Gwynedd schools will accept it. No decision has been made, and so it would not be possible to discuss specific details but we are here to inform staff that there are officers available to support them. The department is gathering information about all the personnel that the proposal will affect, and is keeping this information up to date. She noted that she was aware that any change would cause staff worries and two contact emails were given if staff wanted help or more information: sandraelizabethvans@gwynedd.gov.uk & niagruffudd2@gwynedd.gov.uk.

The Head of Education paused and explained that they would have to return to statutory document during the meeting but that he wanted to give an opportunity for questions or comments in response to the discussion so far.

Questions and Comments of the Audience

What would happen to the school during the period of building work?

The Corporate Property Manager responded by noting the period of building work was likely to be about 18 months and that it could not be denied that it would be a challenge to try and develop the site with it still being in daily use. However, it is not a problem that has not been faced before (he referred to Ysgol Glan y Môr recently) and with careful planning, working together and flexibility, he was confident that the development could be completed with as little effect as possible on the users.

The union's representative noted that he had concerns about Y Berwyn specifically. To compare with Glan Y Môr, there will be less room in Y Berwyn because Glan Y Môr had room to teach KS5 but did not, so there were more empty places to help with the joint working.

One member of the audience raised a concern about the use of 'catchment area' because the historical catchment area of Y Berwyn included schools outside Gwynedd. 30% of the children in Y Berwyn come from primary schools outside the catchment area. There was concern about children from outside the catchment area during the building period because there was another choice of secondary school. There was also concern about the cuts that are coming next year, It was noted that the two things were connected, and that staff should be protected or the specialism will not be available in the lifelong school. No mention of KS5 in the plans – worry about the future of KS5.

The lifelong campus will include provision of KS5 but the future of the provision is another discussion. Understand the arguments about combining the cuts in the Berwyn with the establishment of the lifelong campus but must treat them as separate issues. Ysgol Y Berwyn is one of many facing cuts in the County.

Designs – car park across the playing field?

The design is an initial concept and changes and additions will be made. We appreciate the input of staff through the users group.

*The head noted that it was very important for staff to give direct input on behalf of their departments. One member of the audience asked what was the difference between the two financial bids because the bid for the lifelong campus is called **County** while the special school bid is called **regional**. What is the difference?*

The Head of Education responded that the only difference is that Anglesey Council and Conwy Council had already received funding from the Assembly for a new special needs school and so if a bid from Gwynedd were successful the whole region would have had funding for new special needs schools. The Education Portfolio Holder added that lobbying was happening with the two bids but it should be remembered that all Wales' counties had submitted bids.

The audience asked if the Lifelong school will abolish the transfer from primary to secondary for all primary schools?

The lifelong campus will abolish the process for two schools and create plans that can be used by all schools that are transferring children to the secondary.

One member did not agree with the proposed management plan. Having one head of KS4 and KS5 would be a substantial load. Agree with head of KS2 and KS3.

The consultant responded that the shadow governors would be responsible for staffing but that ideas had been mooted in the steering group and recommendations will be made.

The audience noted that there were concerns about staffing. Five members of staff are leaving after the summer 2011. Staff leaving harm schools.

Concerns about an unsuccessful bid – what would happen then?

The Head of Education responded that the Council was working on the assumption that the bid would be successful. The applications process is very slow and reorganisation process is slow and so it makes sense to go ahead with the bid. If it is unsuccessful, the council will have to look at the whole catchment area. Without the funding, the educational problem will still exist, the schools of the catchment area as they are unsustainable. Perhaps there will be a need for more radical reorganisation of the catchment area. The Education Portfolio Holder agreed that it would be necessary to look again at the catchment area because of the reality of the financial situation. The Personnel Manager said that the new policy under consideration supported staff with vacancies in other schools and that this alternative policy would be a help.

One member of the audience noted that because of the staffing cuts to come, it would be impossible for a pupil to follow the curriculum, how would this affect the new lifelong campus?

Secondary discussions are taking place but there is a need to look at this in more detail. There is a duty on the secondary to offer the courses but it would be possible to work with the college and schools in other counties. The situation in the whole county has to be improved.

Return to the statutory document.

The Background leading the Consultation

Will there be an opportunity for prospective parents to contribute? Young adults in the catchment area?

Contribute through the members of the users group.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant Schools

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Considering the Choices

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Factors supporting the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

What would be the Effect of this Proposal?

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Purpose of Consultation

The minutes would be sent to the head to check.

The audience asked about the KS4 and KS5 choices in Y Bala. Some places outside the catchment area are nearer than Dolgellau. Offering 30 subjects in KS4 is difficult in a rural area because of finance. The strain of optional subject affects the core subjects, There is a problem with duplication of resources and so have to pay for transport.

The officers responded that there will have to be co-operation with other organisations in Meirionnydd. This onus will be on the users group. Perhaps it would be an idea to work with Llysfasi.

Thanks and Conclusion

The Head of Education thanked staff for attending and for their contributions. The meeting finished at 17:35.

Y BERWYN STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE MEETING 13 January 2011 17:45-19:15 GOVERNORS' MEETING

There were 12 governors present including the head.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Head of Education and he introduced Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, It was explained that other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How was this Proposal Developed?

The proposal was clearly explained, to close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and create a Lifelong Campus on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

The process has reached statutory consultation where there is an opportunity for all to contribute comments. There will be an opportunity for pupils to respond with questionnaires having already been sent to the school head. Anyone is welcome to send comments to the schools reorganisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. He explained that this meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented some slides on the education vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. He explained that the outline strategy scheme bid had been sent to the Assembly in December for two developments:

- 1) Y Bala Lifelong Campus – develop the campus and develop Bala’s rural schools. Bid for £10million, 70% Assembly funds and 30% Council.
- 2) Special Needs School – rather than Ysgol Hafod Lon, Y Ffôr, for Dwyfor and Meirionnydd children. The new school will be like Ysgol Pendalar in Arfon and will be established in the Penrhyndeudraeth/Porthmadog area.

There will be a preliminary response at the end of January and some months before a firm decision. In the discussions of the catchment area review panel (PAD) a brand new campus was considered but with the change of Government and cuts, it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. Now the initial plan is to upgrade the Berwyn buildings, together with some new buildings.

A consultant (a former secondary head in the County) slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions: A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community, B) What are the development’s advantages, C) What has been achieved so far in Y Bala? It was mentioned that a users group had been established to discuss the development. The groups consist of representatives of the three schools involved. The hope is that it will be possible to extend the membership of the group in the near future. The group agreed that there will not be a primary and secondary school established but one school with a new structure and three levels:

- 1) CA1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides regarding property aims. He showed the initial concept to give the audience an idea of the kind of development under consideration. He emphasised that the picture was an initial concept to trigger a discussion and that this was an opportunity for representatives. The audience was encouraged to voice their opinion and share their ideas with the users group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have another new building for it, have a new building for KS1 & KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that the community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and around the child team).

The Personnel Manager presented slides concerned with guidance and support of the Personnel Department. She explained that discussions were ongoing with teachers’ union officers and supplementary staff (a UNISON officer was present in the meeting). By now an alternative policy is being looked at and the hope is that the governors of Gwynedd schools will accept it. No decision has been made, and so it would not be possible to discuss specific details but we are here to inform staff that there are officers available to support them. The department is gathering information about all the personnel that the proposal will affect, and is keeping this information up to date. She noted that she was aware that any change would cause staff worries and two contact emails were given if staff wanted help or more information: sandraelizabethvans@gwynedd.gov.uk & niagruffudd2@gwynedd.gov.uk.

The Head of Education paused and explained that they would have to return to statutory documents during the meeting but that he wanted to give an opportunity for questions or comments in response to the discussion so far.

Questions and Comments of the Audience

Teaching KS2 & KS3 jointly, presuming the primary and secondary curriculum (aged 7-13)?

The users group are working on methods of presenting KS3, creating resources to present separate subjects. At present there is a lack of continuity between primary and secondary regarding presentation methods. Research to be carried out.

When leaving year 6 one teacher teaches every subject and a number of teachers in year 7; how will this be done gradually?

The Head of Education responded that there were concerns that the standards of KS3 were falling because children were re-starting on the learning format. This is not an ideal system, and establishing the campus is a special opportunity to change the procedure.

Mention was made of a Special Needs School, would children with needs be able to attend the lifelong campus?

Yes, the proposed new school in Penrhyndeudraeth is for children with the worst disabilities, Those who now are in the mainstream will also be in the lifelong campus.

One member of the audience noted that the secondary depended on primary schools and there are concerns that the town pupils will feel privileged because they are on site. The concern will be lack of respect and behaviour of town and country pupils. The same resources will have to be given to rural schools.

The Education Portfolio Holder responded that closing all rural schools and bringing them on to the campus had been discussed but she preferred seeing some of the rural schools being saved. That's why the three rural schools on the three main roads had been kept in this proposal. Over £1million will be spent on Bro Tryweryn, O.M.Edwards and Ffridd Y Llyn schools.

Is there an idea of how the money will be spent?

These discussions are impending; the aim is to have the same standards for the pupils in the whole catchment area. The Corporate Property Manager responded that the concept of expenditure at present is £9million on the lifelong campus and £1.3million on the rural schools.

What will happen if the funding is not received?

22 authorities have bid and half will be unsuccessful and so it is possible that the financial bid will be unsuccessful. If there is no funding we will have to start the discussions from the beginning. The present strategy depends on Assembly funding. It would not be possible to leave the education of the catchment area in its present situation as it is unsustainable.

Have there been discussions with Denbighshire? Pupils from the County attend the Berwyn. The Corwen councillor did not receive an invitation to the PAD meetings.

Some councillors from Conwy and Denbighshire were invited to the PAD, it was an error not to invite the councillor from Corwen. Gwynedd has to submit its own bid, it would be too complicated to try and formulate a bid with other counties.

One member of the audience noted that a substantial amount of the funding was being spent on the primary. What direct investment would be made on the secondary? Also there are 6 members of staff in the primary a 21 in the secondary, will the nature of staffing change and perhaps there will be less specialism.

The Head of Education responded that the hope was there would be staff specialism across the age groups. There is a special opportunity here with staffing e.g. the head of science will be the head off the subject through all the departments, There is a fantastic opportunity to weave the ways of learning across the age groups and get the best education for children and opportunities for staff to develop their skills.

Is there no confirmation of the sixth form? Isn't the sixth form elementary to keep the campus teaching ages 3-19?

The Head of Education responded that they would have to have staff who specialise in teaching KS4 & KS5 but the future of the sixth form is under discussion for Ysgol Y Berwyn themselves, The capital bid has gone with the age groups 3-19 and that is the intention. The Education Portfolio Holder added that the funding for the sixth is not from the County and so in fairness it is a separate discussion.

The audience noted that there was talk of empty places in Y Berwyn in the document. At present there are spaces for 700 pupils in Y Berwyn but the campus estimate is places for 500. The same area but fewer children? Does not make sense when trying to get rid of empty places.

The Head of Education said that there were 50% empty places in Y Berwyn. It's correct that the modelling was done with fewer pupils because the number of pupils likely to attend is modelled not capacity numbers.

Return to the statutory document.

The Background leading the Consultation

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant Schools

Is it possible to explain the school budget?

The finance manager reported that the whole scheme would release savings of approximately £69,000 including approximately £22,000 net following the unification of the primary schools and the secondary, approximately £10,000 by replacing Neuadd Buddug and approximately £37,000 of the catering budget. The Lifelong School will profit from £20,000 of the catering savings.

What would happen if one of the schools that are closing had a financial deficit?

The lifelong campus will have a new budget, The Legal Services Manager responded that it is not foreseen that this would transfer to the new establishment. If there was money left over that would be another discussion.

Will there be resources such as new furniture? It would be very kind if secondary departments got new furniture.

The Corporate Property Manager responded that any new building would get new furniture but any resources such as technology machines that are still suitable would transfer.

Considering the Choices

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Factors supporting the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

What would be the Effect of this Proposal?

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Purpose of Consultation

The Head of Education reiterated that there was an opportunity to submit comments to the reorganisation project manager by **Friday 4 February 2011**. The minutes would be sent to the head to check.

Thanks and Conclusion

The Head of Education thanked governors for attending and for their contributions. The meeting finished at 19:15.

Y BERWYN STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE MEETING 13 January 2011 19:35-21:20 PARENTS' MEETING

There were 26 people present including parents and pupils.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Head of Education and he introduced Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder, It was explained that other officers would be introduced when they contributed.

The Proposal, the Statutory Consultation and How was this Proposal Developed?

The proposal was clearly explained, to close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools and create a Lifelong Campus on the present site of Ysgol Y Berwyn.

The process has reached statutory consultation where there is an opportunity for all to contribute comments. There will be an opportunity for pupils to respond with questionnaires having already been sent to the school head. Anyone is welcome to send comments to the schools reorganisation project manager by **4 February 2011**. He explained that this meeting was part of the statutory consultation and that the statutory consultation paper would be discussed.

Introduction

The Head of Education presented some slides on the education vision for the catchment area and the bid to the Assembly for capital funding. He explained that the outline strategy scheme bid had been sent to the Assembly in December for two developments:

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There will be a preliminary response at the end of January and some months before a firm decision. In the discussions of the catchment area review panel (PAD) a brand new campus was considered but with the change of Government and cuts, it was necessary to make a reasonable bid that was likely to succeed. Now the initial plan is to upgrade the Berwyn buildings, together with some new buildings.

A consultant (a former secondary head in the County) slides on the lifelong community, concentrating on answering three questions: A) What is a Lifelong Learning Community, B) What are the development's

advantages, C) What has been achieved so far in Y Bala? It was mentioned that a users group had been established to discuss the development. The groups consist of representatives of the three schools involved. The hope is that it will be possible to extend the membership of the group in the near future. The group agreed that there will not be a primary and secondary school established but one school with a new structure and three levels:

- 1) CA1
- 2) KS2 & KS3
- 3) KS4 & KS5

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides regarding property aims. He showed the initial concept to give the audience an idea of the kind of development under consideration. He emphasised that the picture was an initial concept to trigger a discussion and that this was an opportunity for representatives. The audience was encouraged to voice their opinion and share their ideas with the users group. The main changes would be to demolish the present technology buildings and have another new building for it, have a new building for KS1 & KS2 education, upgrade the hall and have community resources. The initial plans suggested that the community elements could be established on the present site of Ysgol Beuno Sant (library and around the child team).

The Head of Education paused and explained that they would have to return to statutory documents during the meeting but that he wanted to give an opportunity for questions or comments in response to the discussion so far.

Questions and Comments of the Audience

What would happen to pupils during the building period? Some of them will be in the middle of GCSE course work and require the use of specific resources.

The Corporate Property Manager noted in response that the building period will be around 18 months and no doubt, with the site being used daily, its development presents a challenge. However this is a problem we have encountered previously (he referred to Ysgol Glan y Môr as a recent example) and with careful planning, co-operation and flexibility, he was confident that the development could be completed with the minimum impact on users.

The Head of Education added, whilst referring to past situations, that it would have no impact but, whenever specific resources may be required, arrangements could be made to use the resources of other establishments.

Members of the audience expressed their concerns regarding parents of pupils attending primary schools outside Gwynedd, pupils who will be starting in year 7 during the next five years. They have other options in respect of secondary education.

One member of the audience referred to the map shown of the Berwyn catchment area in the presentation did not include all the primary schools from within the Berwyn catchment area. Of the 26 present at the meeting 8 parents represented 5 primary schools from outside Gwynedd. A third of the Berwyn pupils are from these schools. The impression is being created that these schools and their pupils are not important. It was possible that the parents of pupils from these schools would send their children to other secondary schools – they have alternatives.

In response the Head of Education explained that the map referred to in the presentation covered the catchment area within the Gwynedd boundary. The bid made for capital funding provides for the number of pupils transferring from these schools. The concern was being recognised and noted. He noted the risks presented by changes but the rewards at the end of this development would be considerable. The Council, during this development, would need to communicate clearly and ensure that parents are aware that their concerns are taken seriously.

One parent was not against the application as such, but it would be difficult for people from the Llangwm, Ruthun and Dyffryn Conwy areas to opt for Y Berwyn at a time when it faces such major changes.

Once the eldest child in the family has been sent to another secondary school all the other children will follow and this could be a loss to the Berwyn,

One member was concerned about two matters, 1) high percentage attending the sixth form and losing 10% of staff 2) the expertise of primary staff cannot help with teaching years 9, 10,11,12,13.

The Head of Education responded that the current Berwyn situation and the life long campus must be kept apart. Currently the school is failing to keep within budget and is being operated at a loss and therefore staff cuts are inevitable, like many other schools in the County.

One member of the audience enquired regarding the life long campus and sports resources. Moelwyn has taken over the leisure building but cuts have been mentioned. What guarantee can be given that the sports resources by the lake will still be available in 2015? And if the sports facilities become part of the campus, would this become a financial burden?

There was no intention, said the Head of Education, to reduce the sports facilities in Bala. The consultants added that the management of the sports department would be transferred to and controlled by the community – staff, governors and parents could exercise their influence. Its funding would not be part of the finance for the life long campus – it would be included under the County network. It will have a separate day-to-day management but accountable to the lifelong campus management. The model is available for further development and these are the matters to be addressed.

The audience asked about the work between the lifelong campus and the rural schools, would this work be done jointly with schools beyond the County's boundaries? The secondary school is a business, and if business is not sold beyond the boundaries there is a danger that it will be lost.

The Head of Education accepted this point and he welcomed the fact of hearing that the school's Welsh ethos and nature was valued by parents. This aspect must be safeguarded and maintain the links with parents from outside the catchment area. The Education Portfolio Holder referred to the period of transition facing the catchment area and this presented a unique opportunity to provide a splendid Welsh language resource.

The audience noted that the funding for schools is based on the number of pupils. The numbers for Berwyn are down and will decrease further with the loss of teachers, difficult to regain the pupils.

One individual from the audience had two specific questions 1) what would happen without the Assembly funding? 2) disappointed with the concept, why are further details not available?

In reply to the second question the Corporate Property Manager emphasised again that this is only an initial concept and it needs detailed development with the users.

The Education Portfolio Holder said that a funding bid must be presented to the Assembly in December 2010. In the past bids could be presented annually whilst this has now been changed to every three years. Lobbying work will be done. The Assembly's initial response is expected this month and a final decision available before the Summer. Unless the funding is available then the discussions regarding reorganisation will have to be restarted. Savings will have to be made and therefore changes are necessary to the catchment area's education provision.

Will other parts of Y Berwyn be changed e.g. The canteen?

The Corporate Property Manager reported that funds were not adequate to upgrade all of the current buildings and this necessitated the adoption of priorities to decide on what to spend.

A building being demolished was shown and this building accommodated a special needs unit, would this facility be lost?

The nit would not be lost, but too early to know where it will be located but it would certainly be included within the project and receive investment.

One member of the audience was not against the proposal as such but felt that part of the presentation was being sold to the Beuno Sant a Bro Tegid schools specifically and not directed towards all primary schools in the catchment area. Felt that great care was needed to avoid creating the impression of providing benefits to Bala children only.

This was not the intention and the Education Portfolio Holder said that the model included the network of rural schools, and it was proposed to close one and retain three.

When would the lifelong campus be opened?

2015

There is no opportunity for children to present observations under the consultation.

A questionnaire had been sent to the head teacher to do this with all the pupils.

Will the sixth form be saved? Would it be dangerous not to have a sixth form?

It is proposed to establish a provision for 3-19 year old pupils and the long term future of the sixth is a matter for discussion outside this proposal.

Return to the statutory document.

The Background leading the Consultation

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Y Berwyn, Bro Tegid and Beuno Sant Schools

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Considering the Choices

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Factors supporting the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

No question on this section of the statutory document.

What would be the Effect of this Proposal?

No question on this section of the statutory document.

Purpose of Consultation

The Head of Education reiterated that there was an opportunity to submit comments to the reorganisation project manager by **Friday 4 February 2011**..

Would the school be given a new name?

This is a matter for the user group and the challenge would be to find a better name than Berwyn.

Thanks and Conclusion

The Head of Education thanked parents for attending and for their contributions. The meeting finished at 21:20.

2.4 Ysgol y Parc

Y PARC STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING 10 January 2010 17:00 STAFF MEETING

5 members of staff including headteacher, teacher, trainee assistant, cook in charge and cleaner in charge.

Welcome and Introductions

All present were welcomed by the Head of Education and Cllr Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio Holder was introduced. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced when they made their contributions.

The Proposal and the Statutory Consultation

The statutory consultation paper was presented by the Head of Education and the proposal under consideration was explained. It was noted that all are welcome to make written comments to the schools' organization project manager by Friday 4th February 2011. It was noted that arrangements are in hand for a facilitator to obtain the views of Ysgol y Parc's pupils.

It was asked whether former pupils of Ysgol y Parc would have the opportunity to respond directly to the proposal to close Ysgol y Parc. It was understood that Ysgol y Berwyn had accepted the offer of a facilitator and it was asked if the arrangements had been made. If no facilitator goes to the Berwyn it was requested that former pupils be allowed to attend the session held with the facilitator in Ysgol y Parc.

No problem was seen with this.

It was asked who specifically would consider the responses, and would a copy be given to each elected member.

It was explained that every response would be available to the elected members but that they would not receive a copy directly. It would have cost about £10 per member to send the Tywyn responses therefore it was decided to give a copy to each Party and place a copy in the local library. They would also be available on the internet without personal details.

It was noted by the audience that the main point had been omitted from the paper – the proposal to close Ysgol y Parc had come from the Council and not from the Catchment Review Panel (CRP). It had not been proposed to close the school during the catchment's deliberations. A request was made that this be clearly minuted as evidence for elected members.

Presentation

The head of Education explained that the officers had a presentation to discuss the proposal and to remind everyone of the main points of the CRP – consider the whole catchment and the vision. Points were presented by the Head of Education regarding the catchment vision, by the Corporate Property Manager on the changes to Ysgol O M Edwards, by a Consultant and the Corporate Property Manager on the intentions in Bala, and by the personnel officer on personnel matters in light of the proposal.

The audience proposed that the proposal to close the Parc was an entirely separate matter to the development in Bala.

It was explained that benefits would be available to all the pupils in the area including Ysgol y Parc's pupils and the intention is to collate resources and make the best use of them

An enquiry was made regarding the cost of adaptations to Ysgol O M Edwards.

It was noted that the cost would be about £800,000-£900,000 and that an application had been forwarded to the Assembly. It was explained that points the Property Department were aware of were under consideration but that there would have to be input from staff, governors, parents and pupils when more details were considered in the future.

It was asked whether this work would be ready for September 2012 because it would not be appropriate to move the children until the school was ready. What would happen if the application for funding was unsuccessful? It was clearly stated that the audience were of the opinion that it would be better to come to a decision about the future of Ysgol y Parc after the Assembly had published its decision.

It was explained that the Council were working on the assumption that the application would be successful. The Assembly's initial response would be received by the end of January. That is our present understanding. It was stated that all the changes were bound up with receiving the funding and that the Council were trying to close as few schools as possible, and develop a new establishment in Bala.

The Transport Policy was mentioned and the audience foresaw it changing in the future which would affect the parents of the Parc's pupils. It was noted that the cost of petrol was increasing and it was asked whether parents would have to pay.

The response was that this was true for all parents in the County and that there would be change but that the 2 miles was in the legislation and no change was anticipated.

The audience suggested that Bala was under huge stress because there would not be a new building on the proposed life-long learning campus beyond upgrading Ysgol y Berwyn. There has not been sufficient communication with local people, no notification of changes. Local people who are not on the users' group do not know what is happening and people talking amongst themselves caused harm to the project.

It was explained that changes had to be made following the change in government and the spending cuts. The Council has less freedom. Reasonable use has to be made of what is available at present. All opinions are welcomed – the aim is to extend membership of the users' group to include more local people.

General information was presented by the personnel officer and it was explained that it was not possible to go into detail until the decision had been made but that the officers were in contact with the teachers and support staff unions' forum. The officer was conscious that this was an anxious time and said that the personnel officers were there to offer assistance. Two e-mail addresses were given as contact points: sandraelizabethewans@gwynedd.gov.uk a niagruffudd2@gwynedd.gov.uk. No questions were asked by the audience

How the Proposal was developed and Background leading to the Consultation

It was explained that this sub-section of the document referred to the whole catchment area and not solely to Ysgol y Parc. No questions were asked as progress was made through these points.

Ysgol y Parc

The audience said that there was a lot of emphasis on the 14 surplus places in Ysgol y Parc but that this proposal would create 20 surplus places at Ysgol O M Edwards

It was explained that it was necessary to model places for 10% more pupils than the present number according to the requirements of the Assembly. This is because after upgrading the school perhaps some parents would choose to take their pupils there although they may not have considered doing so previously.

It was noted by the audience that the document had not specified how many Gwynedd schools were in the safety net.

It was explained that the cost of the whole safety net was nearly half a million for 27 schools at present and that there were indications that this would rise to £650,000 by 2013. There is constant pressure by now particularly from medium-sized schools for a fairer funding system.

The audience noted that creating 3 classes for 70 pupils was not ideal. Class size would increase and this would be a cause for anxiety for the headteacher and for parents. This would create stress for a school with only 3 teachers. The proposal is supposed to provide an education which is equally as good if not better.

The proposal would ensure a teacher for each class.

The audience wished it to be made clear that it is possible that the numbers in Ysgol y Parc could increase in the future and that this is not mentioned in the document. The numbers could increase to 20 – 24, there could be 12 in each class. It was noted that a figure in the document is incorrect. There has been a maximum of 30 pupils in the school over the last 35 years, and not 27 as stated in the document.

It was agreed that the figure would be checked and changed if found to be incorrect.

The audience noted that despite having 14 surplus places they were happy with the school. It is noted in the document that there is a lack of a playing field but this has no effect on the standard of education and it is not a disadvantage as 5/6 pupils have represented Wales in sports. One member of the audience said it would be better to have the Parc's Hall than a playing field in comparison with the halls of other schools.

The audience noted that though at present there is a headteacher in charge, the Headteacher now has the NPQH qualification.

In the document there is a reference to the fact that there are not any children from outside the catchment area at the school – a member of the audience was under the impression that the Council was opposed to this happening.

It was explained that this is a fact which explains that the numbers in the school are settled.

The GYDCA was mentioned with reference to the 17 bullet points that had been agreed with the County's primary heads federation.

The audience agreed that cooperation is important to lighten the workload and that sharing of resources is advantageous

Consideration of Options, Factors supporting the Preferred Option, and Disadvantages of the preferred Option

There were no questions on these specific sections but the Head of Education said he was conscious of the time (17:55) and the arrival of Governors, and he asked if there were any questions from the staff. 4 members of staff were happy to stay for the Governors' meeting. Points were raised regarding transport and post-use of the site, and it was agreed to discuss this in the governors' meeting, as well as trying to make faster progress through the meeting.

The Effect of the Proposal and the Purpose of the Consultation

This section was dealt with quickly and the details of responding to the consultation were repeated; it was stated that this evening's comments had been minuted.

The audience asked if the response form was on the internet. This was asked in order to ensure that it was there

It is on the internet as part of the document but not on its own. It was agreed to try and put it on the internet.

Thanks and Close

The Head of Education thanked the staff for their attendance and their contributions.

Y PARC STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT 10 January 2010 18:00 GOVERNORS' MEETING

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Governors made a request to make a video recording of the meeting. No prior notice of this request had been made to the officers. In response it was noted that the agreement of all present would have to be obtained for this and that it was important that a single official record of the meeting be provided. This had not happened in any previous statutory meetings.

The Governors said that they had been unable to obtain minutes of other committee meetings discussing Ysgol Y Parc, despite numerous requests to the Council. Therefore on this occasion they wished to keep their own record. It was stated that the tape would not be shared with outside groups but that it would give them an opportunity to look again at the responses. If they had known earlier that making a video recording would not be allowed, the clerk to the governors would have come to take minutes. A request was made for the minutes by the end of the week

There was no agreement for making a video recording of the meeting. The Head of Education proposed that draft minutes be sent to the school to be checked before being presented to the members. Councillor Liz Saville Roberts, the Education Portfolio holder, gave her word that the minutes would be e-mailed to the Headteacher of Ysgol Y Parc by the end of the week

12 present including staff and governors.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened and all were welcomed by the Head of Education and Cllr Liz Saville Roberts was introduced. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced when they made their contributions.

The Proposal and the Statutory Consultation

The statutory consultation paper was presented by the Head of Education and the proposal under consideration was explained. He said that any one was welcome to ask any question at any time during the meeting. It was noted that all are welcome to make written comments to the schools' organization project manager by Friday 4th February 2011.

Presentation

At the request of the audience because of lack of time and because all the governors would be attending the following parents' meeting, it was agreed not to give the presentation.

How the Proposal was developed and Background leading to the Consultation

The strategy adopted in developing the proposal was referred to: the matrix used in the document containing the criteria does not appear in the section where the options are considered (page 6).

The audience noted that the term “Community Primary School” is incorrect when referring to Ffridd y Llyn and Bro Tryweryn schools as it refers to schools that provide for several communities. It was suggested that they are area schools as one serves three communities miles apart. An explanation was requested for the term “Ysgol Gymunedol y Parc”.

The Legal Services Manager responded to this by explaining that there are three main categories of schools supported by the Council by law. Two refer to church schools and all other schools are referred to as community schools. This is a technical legal term. The link of the community hall to Ysgol y Parc means it is described as a “Community” School.

The audience noted that the statement in the document that the fall in “pupil numbers in the primary sector between 1975 -2009” was completely incorrect. It was said that the background to the catchment had not been included.

It was explained that this point corresponded with the table on page 6 of the document.

The audience responded that this should have been clearly noted with this point.

The audience noted that there were two points in the background section which mention education in Ysgol Y Berwyn. A new school is planned for Bala and the local people are supportive of it. It is known that problems exist in Ysgol y Berwyn. Some parents are moving their children from the school because of the unfavourable ESTYN report. Closing Ysgol y Parc would not have an effect on Y Berwyn – neither from the point of increasing pupil numbers nor answering ESTYN requirements

It was stated that ESTYN had noted improvements in Y Berwyn. It was explained that these were matters pertinent to the whole catchment area, and not factors unique to the Parc.

The audience noted that two expenditure figures had been provided for improvements to primary school buildings in the area - £660,000 in the document, but a bid for £1.4million to be spent on the rural schools.

The Corporate Property Manager responded by noting that the lower of the two figures referred to work only on the condition of the buildings and that the higher figure referred to expenditure to make the buildings suitable for the requirements of the twenty first century.

Ysgol y Parc

O.M.Edwards will be adapted for the teaching of 90 pupils.

Why 90, it was asked.

It was explained that the Assembly requires planning for an extra 10% when upgrading.

The audience said that Iwan Trefor Jones, Corporate Director, had told elected members in a committee in 2010 that Ysgol O M Edwards was large enough without adaptations to receive pupils from Ysgol y Parc.

One member of the audience said that there are 41 pupils at Ysgol O M Edwards at present. The proposed changes would mean that there would be about 25 pupils in each of the three classes. The audience noted that this would depend on the ages of the children. Was it true that an additional 0.5 teacher would be in Ysgol O M Edwards?

The Finance Manager explained that an additional £47,000 would go to Ysgol O M Edwards if the proposal went forward – it would be the governors’ decision how to spend it. It would be sufficient to employ a full-time teacher or a 0.5 teacher and an assistant. An additional 0.5 teacher would allow a teacher for each class.

It was asked what would happen if only half of the Parc’s pupils chose to attend Ysgol O M Edwards.

It was explained that half of the funds would therefore go to Ysgol O M Edwards. This would not be sufficient to employ a full-time teacher but the pupil numbers would be fewer.

It was asked how much money would be needed to adapt Ysgol O M Edwards.

This would be in the presentation in the following parents’ meeting.

It was explained that Ysgol y Parc had received an additional sum of £36,000 this year in order to guarantee two members of staff. It is one of 27 schools that receive staffing protection (the safety net). It was noted that the protection costs about £500,000.

The audience noted that listing per pupil allocation in each school in the catchment would have been better in order to create a full picture.

There was no objection to this from the officers, and the Finance Manager listed the pupil allocation for the catchment primary schools for the record:

Ysgol Bro Tegid	£3,038
Ysgol O.M.Edwards	£3,535
Ysgol y Parc	£7,394
Ysgol Bro Tryweryn	£5,384
Ysgol Ffridd y Llyn	£3,283
Ysgol Beuno Sant	£3,519

The audience noted that the higher figure was based on September 2009 numbers. The pupil allocation figures for the six schools based on numbers in September 2010 was requested and for this information to be presented to elected members.

It was noted that the school had provided for a maximum of 30 pupils, and not 27 as stated in the document.

The audience asked why the Headteacher retains a temporary status after being at the school for 4 years. This was embarrassing for the Headteacher, it was noted, and presented as a negative point in the document.

The Head of Education explained that a Headteacher has to have a specific qualification and although the Headteacher at the Parc had gained the qualification, discussions on this matter had begun but had not progressed. It was noted that the point was included in the document because it was a factor in the re-organization strategy

Consideration of Options, Factors supporting the Preferred Option, and Disadvantages of the preferred Option

The audience noted that there were 50% surplus places in Ysgol Bro Tryweryn. Why could the Parc not have the same option? Why not include Y Parc as part of the bid? Does the Parc have to close in order to have a life-long learning school?

It was explained that an application had been made to the Assembly for money for the whole of the catchment area. The Education Portfolio Holder noted that Assembly Officers had questioned the number of schools to be closed in the Tywyn area. Concerns exist regarding the number of schools to be closed. The difference with Ysgol Bro Tryweryn is that there is a possibility of its coming out of protection in coming years. It was noted that careful consideration had been given to keeping Ysgol y Parc open.

The audience felt that Bala residents are able to access all services easily, but that few other services exist for the people of Parc for their Council tax. Consideration of the Welsh language must be remembered. Outside school hours Ysgol Bro Tryweryn has no community activities but there is extensive use of the school in the Parc and closing the school would threaten this.

It was asked what would happen if the application for the money was unsuccessful.

It was explained that the Council was working on the presumption that the bid would be successful. The bid had been submitted in December; an initial response from the Assembly was expected by the end of January and the final answer in May (this is the present understanding).

The audience asked if this would mean that every small school would close. Have the discussions included consideration of deeper matters such as the effect on a community, on children and families?

A member of the audience said that numbers in the Parc would increase as former pupils returned to the area.

It was asked what were the travel costs of Council officers for the year. Attention was drawn to the number of cars in the parking ground.

The Finance Officer responded by saying that he did not have information regarding Gwynedd Council officers' travel costs to hand.

A member of the audience noted that the support of governors and the community lightened the workload of the Headteacher. It is not difficult to get the community to participate with the school in the Parc. It was asked whether consideration had been given to the increased workload of the Headteacher at Ysgol O M Edwards. There would have to be a performance in the Parc with an evening show. There are community aspects as well as educational ones.

It was said that consideration would have to be given to Headteachers' conditions of work. A document had been produced by the county's primary headteachers noting that they were in favour of 0.5 of the week free from teaching in order to undertake leadership and management tasks.

The audience said that they had supported the first option (federalisation) since the beginning of the process.

It was mentioned that the people of Bala had been misled in the discussion regarding the upgrading of Y Berwyn and that there would not be a completely new building there.

It was explained that changes had been made to the bid for resources following the change in government and the spending cuts.

The Effect of the Proposal and the Purpose of the Consultation

Contact details for the presentation of written responses were noted but because parents were arriving for the next meeting it was decided to allow them to come in and to start the next meeting.

Thanks and Close

The Head of Education thanked the audience for their attendance and their contribution.

**Y PARC STATUTORY CONSULTATION MEETING
10th of January 2010 17:00
PARENTS MEETING**

At the beginning of the meeting, there were 54 people present in the audience including the staff, governors, parents, pupils, former pupils and members of the community. More people arrived during the meeting. There was a translator present.

Welcome and Introductions

The Head of Education and the Education Portfolio Holder was introduced by the Head of Ysgol y Parc and it was explained that the Head of Education would chair the meeting with the agreement of the governors. It was explained that the other officers would be introduced as and when they made their contributions or responded to observations. It was explained that a request to film the meeting had been refused because there was disagreement about this. It was noted that the governor's clerk would be present to take minutes, had this disagreement been foreseen beforehand. An agreement has been made to receive the minutes of the three meetings by the end of the week.

The Head of Education was thanked for the presentation and everyone was welcomed to the meeting. He apologised for not finishing the governors meeting but understood that they were waiting for this meeting that would discuss the same document. He explained that the meeting presented the opportunity for everyone to take part in the discussion and that the minutes would be available for the headteacher to check.

The Proposal and the Statutory Consultation

The statutory consultation paper was presented by the Head of Education and the proposal under consideration was explained, that is to close Ysgol y Parc and offer the pupils a place at Ysgol O.M.Edwards, Llanuwchllyn. Places will be provided for parents to take their children to Ysgol O.M.Edwards but this will be an open choice for the parents. He said that there were spare copies of the statutory consultation document if any one needed one among the audience.

It was noted that everyone is welcome to make written comments to the schools' organization project manager, by Friday the 4th of February 2011. The former pupils of Ysgol y Parc will be included in the Ysgol Y Berwyn response session but a request has already been made to include them in the consultation with the children of Ysgol y Parc.

It was asked whom will be sorting the comments and to whom will they be sent?

It was explained that it is the re-organisation officers who will analyse the responses and a report to include the analysis will be presented to the members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, the Council's Board and the Full Council. In addition to this it will be arranged that all of the correspondence will be available for the elected Members.

It was noted that the proposal has been developed by the Improvement Working Group held on the 2 April 2009 on the basis of the strategy that was formed and adopted. Five meetings of the Catchment Review Panel (CRP) when preparing the proposal. It was explained that the proposal has now reached the statutory stage.

Introduction

The Head of Education said that there would be a presentation by the officers to discuss the proposal and to remind everybody of the main points of the Catchment Review Panel (CRP). i.e. to consider the whole catchment and the vision.

Points were presented by the Head of Education regarding the catchment vision. There will be benefits for the pupils of Y Parc in light of the Lifelong Campus in Y Bala and there will be a collaboration pattern between the remaining rural schools. One part of the concept that will be developed is the pattern of co-operation within the whole area. The Assembly has announced the requirements of today's twenty first century schools for the pupils of today and the future. The basis of the consultation is to create

schools that provide education that coincides with these requirements. It was noted that there is a need for a sustainable education arrangement in the catchment. It is intended to concentrate the facilities around the pupils and put more emphasis on services for children and families.

Two slides were presented by the Corporate Property Manager outlining the proposed amendments for Ysgol O.M.Edwards. It was noted that work is needed to improve the parking facilities, picking up and dropping off children from vehicles. A room is needed for the staff, a learning resource space, work on the hall, measures to reduce the use of energy, some work is needed to upgrade the kitchen, the upgrading of the IT links, upgrading of the foundation period, the upgrading of the disabled toilet facilities (for pupils, parents and any visitors).

It was asked what the cost of all the upgrades will be at Ysgol O.M.Edwards? One member of the audience asked why this expenditure is being made to Ysgol O.M.Edwards because not many pupils from Y Parc will go there, with parents choosing to go to Y Bala. It was noted that the Council should listen more to parents and spend this money on Ysgol y Parc.

It was noted that the cost is likely to be in the region of about £800,000-£900,000 and an application has gone to the Assembly.

It was asked what will happen should the financial application fail?

It was explained that the Council is working on the assumption that the application will be successful. The application was sent in December. The Assembly's initial response is awaited toward the end of January and it is anticipated that a final decision will be received before the end of the summer. It was said that strategic proposals will need to be presented in order for it to be successful.

It was asked what the cost will be for Ysgol y Parc? A list of all the required upgrading work at Y Parc was asked for and a request was made for it to be costed so that a comparison can be made with the upgrading of Ysgol O.M.Edwards.

The Corporate Property Manager responded by noting that an expenditure of £75,000 would be required on the condition aspects alone.

One member of the audience asked in which document this figure was included and when the survey was undertaken. If the figure comes from the two page document that the audience has already seen, there is no date on the document therefore it isn't clear when the survey was undertaken.

He answered that the survey is undertaken on an annual basis and the document was shown, and it was agreed that there was no date on it. It was agreed that the property manager will look into this further and will send a copy to the Head.

The audience noted that it should have been highlighted earlier that all of this work needed to be undertaken on Ysgol O.M.Edwards, last July in fact. At the time it was stated that there was enough room for the pupils of Ysgol y Parc , without the need for upgrading.

In response, it was stated that details were not available at the time.

One member of the audience expressed their dissatisfaction, and said that the details should have been publicised earlier so that councillors could be made aware of the facts. Perhaps some councillors would have a different opinion if they had known this information and they expressed that this information should have been presented to the Council back in July 2010. It was suggested that the Council had been misled with regard to this matter.

It was explained that this meeting was an opportunity to share information and to discuss the document.

The audience noted that this meeting was an opportunity for the community to ask questions and that it was an opportunity for the Education Portfolio Holder to answer.

She answered that she could hear the concerns and said that there would be room for the children at Ysgol O.M.Edwards before Ysgol y Parc would close. It would not be fair to close the school before there is appropriate space for them.

One member of the audience emphasized that this information could possibly have changed the minds of some councillors, and there were only 5 votes difference in the decision that was made. This information was very important and this individual felt that the councillors had been misled.

The question was posed to the Education Portfolio Holder as to whether she was present at the meeting when the Corporate Manager said that there was room at Ysgol O.M.Edwards? It was asked whether or not the staff were willing to admit that the Corporate Manager had said this at a committee? It was noted that members of the communities had tried to get a hold of the minutes of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee minutes before Christmas and had failed to be able to get a hold of them – when will these be available?

The Education Portfolio Holder responded that she was not sure of the exact context of the comments made by the Corporate manager in order for her to be able to respond to the comments made. It was explained that committee minutes are usually available on the web before the following meeting, and that is approximately two months.

A request was made by a member of the audience to finish the discussion on Ysgol O.M.Edwards and to move on.

It was raised by one member of the audience that the plans in Y Bala had been misleading. It was initially a new building and now what would happen was that they would upgrade the Berwyn buildings.

It was explained that changes in the capital application had had to be made following a change in government and as a result of the cuts. The Council does not have as much freedom. A reasonable financial application that was likely to succeed had to be made.

One member of the audience noted that a meeting had happened in Caernarfon between the Education Portfolio Holder and Councillor. Dyfed Edwards, when voluntary time was given by members of the community. During this meeting a request was made to keep Ysgol y Parc open until the Lifelong School is opened. There has been no response and there has been no mention of this request. It was felt that there was too much emphasis on the date 2012. Would the Education Portfolio Holder be willing to recommend keeping the Parc open until the Lifelong School is opened – in fairness to the pupils? The Lifelong School should be ready so that there is a choice for parents whether or not to send their children there. One member declared , “If the school in Y Bala will be so fantastic, of course the parents will want to send their children there, - but if it isn't, there will be a big problem with the new school.”

The Education Portfolio Holder said that she was listening to the community's viewpoint in the meeting and had noted these comments.

Consideration of Options, Factors supporting the Preferred Option, and Disadvantages regarding the Preferred Option

Again the question was posed – what will happen should the financial application fail?

It was explained again that the Council is working on the premise that the application will be successful. The application was sent in December. The Assembly's initial response is awaited by toward the end of January and it is anticipated that a final will be received before the end of the summer. It was said that the whole scheme is subject to the receipt of the money. If the money is not received the Education Portfolio

Holder explained that they will have to re-consider the situation for the whole catchment. If the money is not received the whole process as it stands will come to an end but it must be kept in mind that the schools in the catchment, as they stand at the moment are unsustainable, and so changes would have to be made under another strategy. The Legal Services manager confirmed that they expect the money to be in place before the Council is able to announce any statutory notices.

The audience noted that the heads at other schools in the catchment were willing to collaborate and that this option had not been considered carefully enough. In a meeting the Education Portfolio Holder said to the councillors not to “endanger the Bala scheme by not closing the Parc”. Why make the decision to close the Parc now? Is there an agenda to close small schools?

The Education Portfolio Holder explained that a message had come from the Assembly, after the re-organisation in Tywyn, to say that they had to be more radical and had to close schools. An application for money was submitted to re-vamp Ysgol Y Groeslon because of the low standard of the building and the proposal failed because it wasn't strategic from the perspective of the area's education. The Head of Education responded that a financial application had to be made at the time because there would be no further opportunity for three years. It must be remembered that other counties are making applications and that some of them are readily prepared applications.

This was not the message that the audience got from Nerys Evans from the Assembly at the Eisteddfod. They said that it is not the Assembly's intention to close primary schools but it is rather a decision for the counties themselves..

A member of the audience declared that it would be possible to justify keeping Y Parc open on for reasons based on the community. When there is uncertainty about the future of a school (be that intentional or not) that uncertainty can lead to parents removing their children from there and it then closes (e.g. Llawr y Betws) Although there is uncertainty about the future of Ysgol y Parc no parents have removed their children from there, every child came to the nursery class in September 2010. This demonstrates the type of community that there is in the Parc, and that there is support for this school.

It was stated that the situation had been tragic in Llawr y Betws for the children, parents and staff. *The audience did not agree with the officer's definition of a tragedy because the same attempt is being made to do the same to Ysgol y Parc.*

What is the financial application that's being made to the Assembly and how much of Gwynedd Council's money will be used?

In response it was stated that an application for £10 million has been submitted for 70% from the Assembly and 30% from the Council.

The audience noted that the amount of £200,000 from the Council's money will be going toward the upgrade of Ysgol O.M.Edwards. A request for information was made – how much money has been invested in this re-organisation process up to now? It was noted that there were many cars and officers present.

In response it was noted that the Council will be financing 30% of the whole catchment's expense and that this is specific money, SCIF money, that is funding the re-organisation project in 2010/11.

The audience stated that the transport figure in the document is wrong. The cost of buses and taxis will increase because of petrol prices.

The Finance Manager responded by saying that there will be an increase in the cost of energy in buildings too. It was agreed that the figure will be checked and changed if it's wrong.

Concerns about the transport arrangements. How exactly did they expect the children to get to Llanuwchllyn? Will there be buses or taxis? Will there be one bus or more than that? The audience have been in touch with two external companies who have stated that they will not be willing to undertake the work for less than £22,000 – the figure in the document is misleading. Travelling time was referred to, 30 mins was quoted when some of the children will be travelling for 45 mins. The savings as a result of the closure of the school will be spent on transporting the children. On 28.11.10 a request was made via the School Re-organisation Project Manager for the Transport Officer to respond to the situation so that he would have a report prepared for this consultation meeting, and a proposal was also made to the Education Portfolio Holder, for a representative / local representatives to go with the Transport Officer to see the location of the children's homes and the condition of the roads. The transport officer doesn't know exactly where all of the children live. And he is not aware of where the children's homes might be in the future.

It was noted that Transport Officers have a specific and consistent method of establishing travelling requirements. A request will be made when they confirm the figures for Y Parc for them to consider the proposals circumstances regarding Parc.

Concerns about the transport arrangements. How exactly did they expect the children to get to Llanuwchllyn? Will there be buses or taxis? Will there be one bus or more than that? Several members of the audience were not comfortable putting 4 year old children onto a bus without a supervisor. What will happen during inclement weather? Y Parc school closed for 1 day during the past two years due to snow – the parents are willing to use their 4x4 to get their children to school. They were not willing to take them further than Y Parc to take them - it is too expensive with the price of petrol. What about events outside school hours e.g. yr Urdd – will there be a later bus to carry them home? The transportation costs must be accounted for properly by the officers as soon as possible so that councillors will have the relevant information before they make their decision. A request was made for one of the governors to go with the transport officers. It was asked whether the children from the primary and secondary school will be transported together on the same buses? The access to Ysgol O.M.Edwards is not suitable to collect children from buses at present.

In response it was stated that some events outside the school are funded via grants. The children as well as the transport policy that is in existence across the county will have to be considered. It was noted that primary and secondary pupils share transport in some areas in the county. The Head of Education agreed to ask the transport officers to complete the inspection as soon as possible. He noted that the way in which the officers undertake the inspection is the standard form of inspection. It was agreed to ensure that the transport officer gets in touch with the head of Ysgol y Parc before the start of the inspection – and this promise was made. Also, the transport policy is in operational across the county already but the parents concerns were accepted. In order to reduce the parents concerns in the Tywyn area it was suggested that a supervisor be employed for one term. Such an arrangement can be considered in this case.

One member of the audience noted that the further expenditure that will be made could be spent in order to keep the school open.

*The audience had already corrected the wrong figure 3 times and the mistake still exists in the document – it is 3.4 miles from the gate of Ysgol y Parc to Llanuwchllyn. The real travelling time for the majority of children is further than that. Disappointment was expressed that these corrections were not being made. The Council's aims listed can be seen on the cover letter of the statutory document : **Respect, Service, Positive, Working as a Team and Value for Money**. The audience did not feel that the council is implementing these aim on behalf of the community of Y Parc.*

It was asked of the Head of Education whether or not the enthusiasm and commitment shown in the meeting in order to keep the school open had ever been shown before? There is close co-operation between the school and the community.

Dylan Bryn's report on the linguistic effect demonstrated that it would have a positive effect on the children but not on the area itself. Research work by one member of the community was presented about the language of the area. From his local knowledge 90% of Parc speak Welsh and in using the statistics from 2001 regarding Llanycil only 78% speak Welsh. The individual said that he himself is narrow minded – he only considers somebody to be Welsh if they are able to speak Welsh. He noted that conserving the language is more important than anything else. If the school closes the Parc won't be attracting new young parents, the area would be filled with holiday homes and more non Welsh speaking people would come into the area. Statistics stating that on average farmers in the area are under 50 and many individuals run their own businesses. He didn't understand how the Council did not realise this. He noted that the audience could say that they have done their very best for the Welsh language, but asked whether or not the individual on the opposite side of the table (the Council officers) could say the same thing?

The Education Portfolio Holder referred to the linguistic and community impact.

The audience responded that the documents are not relevant to the Parc because they refer to the whole of the Penllyn area rather than the Parc directly. They asked about the impact on the Parc directly, on the effect of moving the children to Ysgol O.M.Edwards and / or to Y Bala. One member noted that several members of the audience would volunteer their time to undertake research but no -one was asked for anything.

A point was raised about the cylch meithrin – the Maesywaun cylch meithrin will no longer exist if Ysgol y Parc closes. A request was made for the document to be corrected – it is a cylch meithrin that is in existence.

A child from the audience asked if the children's feelings are considered in the application. The child stated that they were happy and that were getting benefits that they could no longer enjoy in a bigger school e.g. Every child gets a line in the Christmas show. One member of the audience was applauded when they said that normally only the best children would be chosen, which would mean that Y Parc pupils would come second. One member of the audience said that it is clear what type of children are raised in Ysgol y Parc – ones that are willing to stand up and speak even in a room full of unfamiliar men in suits. The member went on to say that he wasn't being critical of other schools but said that the pupils of Y Parc are always given the best facilities and opportunities .

Ysgol y Parc

The audience noted that volunteers have worked in the school in the past in order to ensure that there are plenty of staff available. It was noted that 19 pupils attend at the moment. A request to delete point 5.10 from the document was put forward.

It was agreed that the relevant sentence will be checked and changed if need be.

The audience asked for information about the allowance rate per head across all the schools across Gwynedd.

The Finance manager responded that figures per head can be seen on black and white based on the figures for 2010-2011, in a document that is sent to every school in the County during the next two weeks and the document is already available on the Council's website.

One person from the audience noted that people from the area pay their Council tax for collecting bins, (when, on some occasions they have had to transport them a mile and a half down to the main road ,) referred to gritting only one way during wintery weather, and about the school. The main value for money for the community is the local education for children and the community use that is made of the School and the Hall.

It was asked whether or not officers that were present would recommend closing the Parc?

In response it was said that it was not at the officers discretion to reveal this, but, the truth is, that it has to be considered what the best future is for education in the County. A 17 bullet point document has been produced by primary heads in Gwynedd stating that heads are frustrated at the moment. There is a significant risk now in asking what will be decided in another two months' time.

The Legal Services Manager noted that it is not appropriate to ask officers to presume a recommendation in relation to the consultation – the process is yet to be completed.

The audience said that it will not be fair if every councillor does not receive the minutes of tonight's minutes and reads them. Many points have been raised and mistakes rectified and every councillor should be aware of them before they made any decisions.

The councillors will receive the minutes as part of the documentation for deciding but it is a matter for individual members to read the documentation.

It was noted by a member of the audience that the re-organisation process in the catchment has been undertaken in a cold hearted manner and this has created huge disappointed locally. This has mainly been as a result of the minute taking – there are many 'errors' that have been made and the community has had no opportunity to correct them. Mistakes have been found in the past and when members of the community have corresponded via letters or e-mails the only thing that came to hand as a result was a just a "recognition that the correspondence had been received" .

A child asked whether or not the officers had any inkling how the community felt? They also said that they were unable to sleep because they were concerned about the future of Ysgol y Parc.

A request was made to show the financial figures clearly – closure will save 'X' but 'X' will have to be spent. How much effect will the closure of Ysgol y Parc have on Caernarfon? Are there figures available? In response it was stated that there are no figures to reflect the effect on Caernarfon schools. It was re-stated that the travelling figure is wrong.

The figure would be checked and would be changed if it is found to be wrong.

An enquiry was made as to whether or not the application for money from the Assembly is available on the web? Is there a contact point to correct any mistakes in it?

The officers believed that they are available from the Assembly.

Is the Parc's opinion being heard tonight?

The Education Portfolio Holder responded by saying that the audiences' viewpoint was being conveyed clearly. She added that the balance needs to be maintained in the catchment and the whole County. Also, the Education Authority is concerned about Y Berwyn Secondary School's current situation.

The audiences noted that the Parc is not to blame for Ysgol y Berwyn's failures. "Are you saying that the Parc has to be closed in order to enable changes to be made to save Ysgol Y Berwyn?" It was noticed that there is ill feeling in Y Bala because the new building will not be achieved – and now they have to be satisfied with adaptations to the current buildings at Ysgol y Berwyn.

The Education portfolio Holder said that the benefits in Y Bala would provide benefits for Y Parc because they will go to Ysgol y Berwyn eventually.

Introduction

The introduction was returned to at the request of the audience for information about the lifelong campus that was intended to be shared earlier.

The consultant presented information about the intention at Y Bala. By joining the provision in Y Bala it will be possible to create an educational provision that coincides with the requirements of twenty first century schools. There will be benefits for the pupils of Y Parc just like all the rest of the area's pupils. The whole Penllyn area will reap the benefits as a result of the new performing hall. A new type of school will be created, a school with pupils between the age of 3-19 with one head and 1 governing body. A local management committee, that will be led by the school head responsible for running the non educational facilities e.g. Public library,. There will be a huge emphasis on co-operation in the catchment. Basic values will be important in the development to retain the Welsh Language and to create a resource that will provide education of the highest standard. A user group has been created and in the near future the aim is to expand the membership and it is hoped that some of you from the audience will be a part of it.

Will this be a new school like Cae Top (Bangor)?

The Corporate Property Manager presented slides showing the initial concept of the intention. It was explained that the intention would be to build a new primary education building (like Cae Top), a new technology centre to replace the current sub standard buildings at the Berwyn, the hall being substantially upgraded and the current Ysgol Beuno Sant being upgraded as a home for community facilities.

Therefore would the laboratories and the canteen at the Berwyn remain the same? If the canteen would remain in the same location the pupils would have to walk far from the site of the new primary school in order to get there. How many pupils would the new primary school be able to accept?

The laboratories will remain the same. At the moment the canteen would remain in the same place but there will be a need for further discussion. It was emphasized that this plan is just an initial concept. The primary section will be sufficient for the number that are at Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid schools now and an additional 10%.

In looking at the site plan it appears that the primary school children would have to be picked up / dropped off from buses in the same place as the secondary children, and will small children be walking through the bus parking?

On no account will children walk through the bus place.

It seems that Meirionnydd is losing out by just having an expansion. Some of the members of the audience remembered the time when they used to attend Ysgol Y Berwyn when children travelled from Corwen and Glyndyfrdwy but, because of a lack of resources and teaching staff, these days the Berwyn doesn't attract pupils in the same way.

In summary the Head of Education noted that initial PAD discussions had discussed a totally new building but as a result of the economic situation, they must be reasonable, there was a need to adapt to co-operate with local members.

What was the opinion of the head at Y Bala?

The disappointment was obvious but following an explanation it was understood that the application needs to be amended to try to make sure that we don't lose out on the opportunity of getting £10 million.

One person from the audience noted that she was aware of places where lifelong schools had been created and all of the rural schools had been closed and the children had been moved to the towns and she referred to the example in Scotland. It doesn't work because the children have no roots. It is very difficult to explain roots. After our rural schools have been closed they cannot be opened again. She did not agree with the idea. Identity will be lost.

It was explained that option 3 was to close all of the primary schools in the catchment. This option was not chosen. It is option two that is being looked at here.

Options Consideration, Factors in Support of the Preferred Option and the Disadvantages of the Preferred Option

It was noted that there was no key to explain a part of the table on page 6 of the Statutory Document. How do you understand the effect of -6.5 on the community without a key (The last two lines of the table.)

This point was recognised and noted.

In the document it is stated that “a wider range of staff” only 0.5 of an additional teacher will be more than the current staffing at Ysgol O.M.Edwards and there are 2 staff in the Parc. There are advantages for teachers in smaller schools, more opportunities to take responsibilities and gain wider skills. It was noted that point 7.2 regarding staff expertise is a bit misleading. Is it possible to federalise?

This is considered when it is possible but the basis of the consultation is the Council's proposal. It was noted by the Legal Services manager that the consultation process is an opportunity to highlight or introduce other options for the school. The Council will have to respond to such proposals when weighing up the result of the consultation.

It was suggested that perhaps discussions should be held before the statutory period. Is it true that Y Bala staff will have to re-apply for their posts?

Remember that the ideal scenario is to create better education for everyone in the catchment.

The audience noted that it is very difficult to convey the community's viewpoint in committees and in the Council's Board – would it be possible to have a member stand and convey the viewpoint of the community? There needs to be an opportunity for the councillors to hear both sides because there is no guarantee that they read the correspondence.

This had not been part of the Council's procedure during the re-organisation. It would be for the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to decide whether or not to permit this and several factors would need to be considered. It was agreed that a written request be made that would be given consideration.

All of the responses to the Consultation would be available to the elected members. As part of the process of reporting to the democratic procedure the Council's officers will also prepare a summary of comments on the responses that will be available to the members but reading the documentation is their own personal matter. There are 75 elected members to do this.

It was asked who will be wording the statutory document because in the advantages the word would is used and in the disadvantages the word could is used. It isn't consistent and the advantages are more positive.

In response it was stated that it is the re-organisation officers that prepare the report.

The Impact of this Proposal

If the Parc closes, what will happen to the building?

The Community Centre is on lease to the community and there is a close relationship between the School and the Hall. The Council has declared that they have a legal duty, should the school close, to work with the community to support community use of the site. If the school closes, it is inevitable that these

arrangements would have to be reviewed in consultation with the Community Council and the Management Committee. The Lease represents an existing legal situation but a discussion needs to be undertaken regarding the possible format of any arrangement in the future. This discussion can take place within a context and understanding without prejudice to the statutory process.

Has this situation arisen previously?

No – the Parc's situation is different to other schools that have closed up to now. There is a similar situation in Bryncreg. There is nothing to stop discussions from starting now so that a full report is ready to be presented in time for the relevant committees and meetings of the Council.

It was agreed that the discussion to resume now so that councillors realise that is one of the busiest centres in

Gwynedd. It was noted that it is a bit late to start disseminating information now.

The Education Portfolio Holder welcomed the discussion on this subject.

Another member of the audience noted that she was aware that when Ysgol Llwr y Betws was closed the community was offered the opportunity to put a business plan together in order to keep the building but unfortunately it would have cost them a £100 per week which was too expensive for them.

The community would be happy to discuss the building). It was agreed that the head would get in touch with the Property Manager to arrange the discussions.

ESTYN's result regarding Ysgol O.M.Edwards was referred to in the document, but ESTYN's results regarding Y Parc was not mentioned, why not?

The audience noted that the staff will lose their work. There is no unemployment in the area but jobs are getting scarcer and scarcer and there is no other employer that employs 5 members of staff therefore this will create unemployment in the area.

It was mentioned that an effort is being made to create an alternative policy at the moment and that personnel officers are already spoken at the staff meeting.

It was noted if the Council had looked at the reasons behind the lack of pupils at the Berwyn, years ago, then this request would not have been raised.

Why have 2009 figures been used rather than 2010 ones under point 9.5 regarding transport. A request was made to update the figures. Why 11 – it doesn't make sense to the community that knows the pupils and their homes. A request was made to explain and correct figure 11.

It was agreed that the figure will be checked and changed if it is wrong and we will include 2010 figures.

It was asked again that these corrections be highlighted before the scrutiny committee and also to make sure that the response form is on the web.

It was agreed if need be, if there are several mistakes that have been corrected that those corrections will be sent out.

A request was made to exclude Y Parc discussions from the Berwyn statutory meetings.

The date of the Council Board Meeting is not on the timetable.

Thanks and Close

The Head of Education noted that everyone in the room, although they were coming from different directions, were aiming for the same thing, that is the best standard of education for every child in Wales.

The Head of Education thanked the audience for attending. The meeting came to an end at 22:20.

APPENDIX 3

ANALYSIS AND COUNCIL RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM THE STATUTORY CONSULTATIONS

3.1 Responses to the Statutory Consultation on the Proposal to Close Y Berwyn, Beuno Sant and Bro Tegid Schools and Establish a Community Lifelong Learning School 3-19 on a New Learning Campus in the Bala

9 written responses received;

4 Welsh Letters

4 Welsh E-mails

1 Petition with Covering Letter

3 General written responses:

2 Welsh E-mails

1 Welsh Letter

Comments Code	Comments	Number of written responses contained the comments	Gwynedd Council's Response
1.	Education		
2.	There was support for the proposal, noting that it was an exciting scheme and that the model could be implemented in other areas in Gwynedd / A plan that provides an appropriate educational model for a rural school that will provide an opportunity to enrich the educational experience of all age-groups. Provide an opportunity to share resources and staff specialization and provide staff with unique development opportunities.	7	The proposal is innovative and unprecedented in Gwynedd. Some catchment areas have expressed an interest in the lifelong learning model proposed for Y Berwyn.
3.	Worried about 3 year olds sharing a campus with 19 year olds	1	This is understandable. The site will be carefully designed to ensure that pupil safety is paramount at all times. Experience will be drawn from schools in other parts of Wales which contain colocated primary and secondary schools, and also from formal lifelong learning campuses in England and Scotland.
4.	Concerns that children from Bala will miss out on the important	2	There is a significant body of evidence in Wales which highlights

	experience of moving from primary to secondary school, whilst children from other primary schools will continue to do so and will be richer for the experience		the transition from primary to secondary education as an unsettling process which can negatively impact on pupil attainment. The proposal would ease the transition period.
5.	Community		
6.	Community-based services will be provided: learning resources for the whole community, a community library and theatre (a service that is currently only available within 40 miles of Bala) / It will offer services to children and families at Bala and the entire catchment-area	3	Securing and upgrading cultural provision in the town is a key facet of this proposal. The proposal envisages developing a quality performance space which can be used as a theatre and cinema, along with a repositioned and upgraded library.
7.	Merging management of several of the services will lead to certain improvement in quality of provision through a more cost effective method by eliminating unnecessary duplication	2	Ensuring the most efficient use of resources is key. Colocating services on one site should provide efficiency savings and the effective and efficient development of integrated services within the town.
8.	The lifelong campus plans contain no mention of schools outside Gwynedd. Why? These pupils are crucial to the future of Y Berwyn. There is a rumour that parents are now considering Ysgol Llanrwst for September 2011.	1	Gwynedd is responsible for supporting schools within the County. It is true that a number of pupils attend Ysgol Uwchradd y Berwyn from outside the County, and representatives of such communities in Conwy and Denbighshire were invited to Catchment Area Review Panel meetings and have been included as consultees in this statutory consultation.
9.	Buildings		
10.	Disappointment that the building will not be wholly new such as the new school at Bangor / Feeling that there was misleading information about a new building / Plans are unclear / the secondary element do not gain much from the plans	6	This is understandable. The Council's preferred option would have been to provide a new purpose-built campus in Bala town. However a number of factors – including the reduction in capital funding and pressures on the Council's finances – have militated against this. The proposal which has been presented to the Assembly Government with a view to securing funding for 2012-15 would see the provision of a new primary section, a new technology block, an upgraded hall capable of acting as a community theatre and cinema, and an upgraded library. The concentration of services on the Berwyn site, the upgrading of facilities and the provision of improved ICT facilities, would serve to strengthen secondary education in the town.
11.	If a new building is constructed on the tarmac at the far end of the school, where will children go at lunch time? The pupils are prohibited from entering the field during the Winter / Work needs to be done on staff room and canteen – no provision for this in current	5	A users working group has been established comprising representatives from the affected schools and other institutions within the town. The early plans presented at a recent drop-in session and at statutory meetings are a starting point intended to

	plans / Due to size of current gym, competitive inter-school sports is not possible in accordance with Health and Safety guidelines / Due to Health and Safety Regulations there is no electricity in changing rooms, therefore department office must be used for lesson planning as this is only place where computer can be used – this is not acceptable / PE department requires following facilities : indoor sports facilities, large sports hall, multi purpose sports hall, climbing wall, hard court facilities, green fields, storage areas, changing rooms and showers, staff rooms / offices, class room for GCSE , a level and BTEC students / Requests a meeting with architects to give more information		stimulate discussion and are not final plans. There will be ample opportunity to influence the design and the location of various services and departments throughout the process. The plans are subject to further discussion with the users group.
12.	What will happen to children during the construction phase? Especially, GCSE age pupils who will follow courses such as technology. At the meeting, it was said that pupils would not be affected but officers could not give a cast iron guarantee	1	The proposal for the lifelong learning campus envisages that building work will be carried out on the site while the present Ysgolion y Berwyn and Beuno Sant continue to provide education. The building process will be carefully managed and planned to ensure that pupil's education is not disrupted.
13.	Statistics		
14.	More empty spaces are being created with these plans	1	The primary element will be a new build which will be designed for the number of pupils resident in the catchment area. Parts of the existing secondary school may be replaced or demolished. There is no intention to create more surplus places.
15.	The Process		
16.	There is concern that many questions remain unanswered when our children's education is under threat	1	The Council has endeavoured to respond to all questions.
17.	Incorrect statutory papers sent to school	1	Copies of statutory consultation papers on the proposals for Ysgol Y Parc and for Bala town and Bala town were sent to all schools in the area. Further copies were provided at the request of schools.
18.	General		
19.	Problems of working with Penllyn Leisure Centre are numerous	1	The proposed model for Bala town proposes to drawing together all public bodies in the area to cooperate under the umbrella of the Lifelong Learning Campus. Ensuring cooperation between the various sectors is essential to the success of the development.
20.	Thanking everyone that went to Bala to discuss the proposals	1	No comment
21.	Pleased to have confirmation that the school will have a fresh start with a clean slate – no financial debt	1	Financial regulations confirm this.

22.	It was understood that an application for financial support had been made to the Welsh Assembly Government / Confident that the financial bid will be successful for the sake of education in Bala and Penllyn	4	Gwynedd Council, along with every other Council in Wales, submitted its Strategic Outline Plan for school buildings in December 2010. The Council identified the Berwyn development as its main priority for the period 2012-15.
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3.2 Responses to the Statutory Consultation on the Proposal to Close Ysgol y Parc

74 written responses received;

43 Welsh Letter
 3 English Letter
 2 Bilingual Letter
 25 Welsh E-mail
 1 Petition

3 General written responses:

2 Welsh E-mails
 1 Welsh Letter

Comments Code	Comments	Number of written responses containing the comment	Gwynedd Council's response
1.	General		
2.	What assurance can be given that the remaining schools will have a future following the closure of Ysgol y Parc? / Councillors have a responsibility to safeguard rural school	2	The proposal outlined is intended to secure the futures of three rural schools and the lifelong learning campus in Bala town for the foreseeable future.
3.	Why close Ysgol y Parc and safeguard Ysgol Bro Tryweryn when two schools are within the safety-net? / Noted that keeping Ysgol y Parc open would create difficulty across other schools in the county, each case should be considered on its own merit / Some schools receive more funding through the minimum staffing protection formula ("safety-net"). Will any school that comes under the safety-net be under threat of closure?	2	Consideration was given to models which proposed closing Ysgol Bro Tryweryn. The Portfolio Holder decided to propose that Ysgol Bro Tryweryn should remain open for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal would provide three rural area schools, thereby securing rural educational provision in this area • The school was created as an area school during the late 1960s to serve a number of very rural communities. It consequently serves a relatively large geographical area • Some pupils currently attending the school from outlying

			<p>villages already travel comfortably over 20 minutes one way. The Council's aim of ensuring that pupil travel is limited to less than 30 minutes one-way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some schools in Conwy, while out of county, traditionally send pupils to Ysgol y Berwyn for their secondary education. Ysgol Bro Tryweryn would be the only school along the A4212 Trawsfynydd road and could potentially serve a wider catchment area
4.	The proposals would impact Ysgol OM Edwards – larger learning groups, 0.5 additional teachers, an increase in Ysgol OM Edwards headteacher's workload / The proposal will not lead to classes of below 25 / Much larger class sizes than the children are used to	2	<p>Accepting that staffing decisions are a matter for school governing bodies, Ysgol OM Edwards in 2009/10 received a financial allocation which allowed for the employment of 2.4 full-time teachers (ft). Average class sizes therefore stood at around 21 pupils. The financial modelling for this proposal envisages providing an allocation which would allow for the employment of 3 full-time teachers. At 2009/10 prices, the school would be able to support three classes averaging 22 pupils. Any increase in pupil numbers would result in an increase to the financial allocation which would in turn allow the school to consider employing additional staff.</p> <p>The proposal anticipates that the school would have a budget which would allow 3 teachers teaching 64 pupils, or average class sizes of 21 on average. If pupil numbers increase, as anticipated, the budgeted allocation would also increase.</p>
5.	Noted that its NAW wish for this proposal and closing Ysgol y Parc is the foundation of a successful money bid to develop a lifelong learning campus in Y Bala. / Any improvements – including the Lifelong Campus – would be subject to receiving an Assembly Government grant, and a similar request for funding to up-grade Dyffryn Dulas, Pennal and Penybryn at Tywyn had been rejected / There is no basis for a statement by the Portfolio Leader that Gwynedd's application for capital funding to develop a Lifelong School is conditional on the closure of Y Parc; the Chief Executive's address to the Council meeting in July 2010 was one-sided and inappropriate;	3	<p>The proposal forms part of a £10.2m project in the Berwyn catchment area. The Council has presented a bid to the Welsh Assembly Government for 70% of the cost (£7.7m) which would leave the Council to fund the remaining £2.56m. Around £1.3m of the overall project cost has been earmarked for upgrading works at Ysgolion OM Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn. A similar bid – to build a new school and to upgrade remaining schools – was successfully submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government during the Summer 2010 (subject to the completion of the relevant statutory consultation periods). Other bids were rejected by the Assembly Government, but the Tywyn catchment area bid was supported in full.</p> <p>The Welsh Assembly Government's current school capital</p>

			programmes clearly outline that local authorities are expected to ensure the best use of available resources, to reduce surplus places, and to plan strategically. In Summer 2010, the Council submitted bids for capital funding. One was based on a catchment area review in Tywyn which proposed the closure of four schools, the building of a new school and upgrading works on three other schools. This bid was accepted. A second bid for funding to replace a school in poor condition in the Dyffryn Nantlle area with a like for like replacement was rejected as it was not sufficiently strategic.
6.	The catchment area parents are unanimously against the closure plans / Parents have not removed their children from the school even though it's under threat / Staff have not looked for alternative employment / Support residents of y Parc's efforts to keep Ysgol y Parc open / The argument for retaining Ysgol y Parc outweighs the argument for closure	9	Responses received indicate support for maintaining the school.
7.	Language		
8.	Ysgol y Parc is a rural natural Welsh school, and the school's closure would destroy the area's language and cultural pattern / 91% of residents speak Welsh / School provides Welsh education provided within a safe environment and Welsh spoken in the playground / Why destroy a flourishing Welsh foundation? / School closure will have large affect on the Welsh language / Unique and invaluable experience in this community / Percentage of Welsh speakers in Llanyceil is lower than Parc specifically / Unique situation in Ysgol y Parc / The Council has an obligation to safeguard the language of Welsh speaking communities in Gwynedd / If closure occurs Gwynedd Council will be remembered in the history books for destroying a living Welsh community at the start of the twenty first century / Closure of school resulting in killing a living Welsh community goes against the Council's corporate strategy / Use of Welsh within a social context is stronger in the Penllyn area than in other areas of the county – measures need not be taken to strengthen use of the language / The school on its own, provides and sustains 'Cwm Llafar' without external financial support	36	The communities of y Parc and Llanuwchllyn, while not identical in language terms, are broadly similar. The Language Impact Assessment carried out by independent consultants on the Council's behalf in Spring 2010, found that the proposal would have a positive impact on the use of Welsh among primary age pupils. Both schools report that 83% of pupils come from Welsh-speaking homes, with 17% coming from English-speaking or bilingual homes. There is no intention of weakening the Welsh language in the area. The independent Language Impact Assessment forecasts that the proposal would strengthen the language at school age. The Welsh language is undoubtedly very strong in the area. However, the communities of Y Parc and Llanuwchllyn are broadly similar.
9.	The Findings regarding Language Impact Assessment by the independent consultants is mentioned – it is claimed that the report	2	Language impact is one of the factors local authorities are obliged to consider in bringing forward school reorganisation proposals. This

	was not focused upon as the report noted the detrimental impact of the proposal that the school's closure would have on the Welsh language at y Parc. / Language & community assessment not specific to y Parc		proposal also takes account of various other factors as outlined in the statutory papers and in the <i>Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy (April 2009). The impact assessments were considered in full in preparing these proposals.
10.	Merging Ysgol O.M.Edwards and Parc would not have a negative impact but the same would not apply if the town and the Parc were merged, that would have language and cultural implications.	2	The language and community impact assessments suggested that the communities and schools of Y Parc and Llanuwchllyn shared a number of characteristics. While there is a degree of commonality with the town too, it is accepted that there are differences
11.	Community		
12.	A statement from a Welsh Assembly member is mentioned, namely that the Government intends to develop policies to safeguard Welsh communities during 2011-12. The closure of Ysgol y Parc would therefore be premature / The proposal to close Ysgol y Parc would be contrary to the Council's wishes to ensure community-focused schools	2	Gwynedd Council has undertaken to support all communities. However, schools are essentially focused on providing the best possible education for its pupils. The independent Community Impact Assessment outlines that the proposal could have a negative impact on the community of Y Parc, and outlines steps which could be taken to mitigate these effects.
13.	School's closure would destroy the community-based links/ Would have a negative impact on the community / School is based in a co-operative, cultured community where everyone supports each other / Children in the school enrich the community and closing school would destroy this forever / School closure would have an effect on the community's foundation – would become less attractive for young families / Children have roots in the community / Fact that school doesn't attract pupils from outside the catchment and don't have any leaving their catchment reinforces its importance in the community / Unique situation in Ysgol y Parc / Removing children's right to be educated in their own community / Young families would not reside or be attracted to the community if there was no school / ESTYN Report (2007) noted a sense of family community and closeness to the pupils to be a particular virtue / Would the closure of Ysgol y Parc be detrimental to the relationship between children and the community/ many houses in the area are owned by English people who are not interested in the community and who anglicise the area. Local young people will be forced to move from the area soon as more English people move in	45	There is a risk that this could happen. However, villages within the Berwyn catchment area which have experienced school closures have been included in wider community activities. The link between communities and their school age children can be maintained, particularly in communities which place great store by community activity. There are examples across the County of communities which no longer have a primary school but which remain vibrant communities. There is no reason why this could not happen in Y Parc. The school received a good ESTYN report in 2007. There is undoubtedly a strong bond between the school and the community. The same is true for other schools in the area, including Ysgol OM Edwards.
14.	Except for the Chapel, the school is the only community-based resource / School works closely with chapel and closure would destroy	23	Ysgol y Parc is a Community School designated as a Community-Focused School. That is to say the school is one of 8 primary

	<p>this relationship, having a negative impact on the community / Without the school chapel won't be sustained / The school/hall is extensively used by community-based organizations including a Cultural Society, Merched y Wawr, Urdd Branch, children's Sunday School, Parc drama society (since 1982), committees, plays, eisteddfod and concerts etc / Closure would have a destructive effect on all these aspects of community life / Closing the school would have a detrimental effect on the Sunday school, currently a high percentage of children attend / Would be detrimental to chapel attendance / Support the principle of establishing a federal arrangement between the four rural schools in Penllyn due to communities sharing resources, collaboration so as to enable the communities to organize their own future</p>		<p>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 to Llanyil 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 / There is no reason why this should be the case. The Sunday school used the building, and the use of the building for community activities is protected by a lease and financial support.</p>
15.	<p>Concern that all children in the Parc catchment-area will not attend the same school in future if the school is closed / Will destroy the children's identity and loyalty / Closure will separate the community / People in Parc are different to people in Llanuwchllyn / An assumption that children will attend Ysgol O.M. Edwards but geographically, the town of Bala is closer to several homes in the Parc catchment-area that several families will find more convenient to take children to the town / Y Parc Pupils would be at a disadvantage if forced to attend another school. It would be difficult for pupils to adapt.</p>	17	<p>The Education Department has mapped the catchment area. Most pupils currently attending Ysgol y Parc live closer to Ysgol OM Edwards than to any other primary school. They would therefore be offered places at Ysgol OM Edwards. The Council's information is that, while some parents may choose to send their children to other schools, their catchment and nearest school would be Ysgol OM Edwards.</p>
16.	<p>What would happen if parents were to opt to take their children to another school - unnecessary changes and expenditure on Ysgol O.M. Edwards</p>	4	<p>Parents are entitled to apply for a place at any school for their child. The forecast budgetary allocation is based on 2009 pupil numbers of 50 pupils at Ysgol OM Edwards and 14 at Ysgol y Parc. If more pupils attend the school (subject to the authority's admissions policy), the allocation would be increased. If fewer attend, it would be reduced.</p>
17.	<p>The school's pupils make an enormous contribution to cultural events and safeguard the area's culture in future/ School's closure would have a negative impact on the area's culture and we are aware of the major cultural deterioration throughout Wales / All the children gain experiences of participating in concerts or eisteddfodau – Parc was</p>	21	<p>Cultural activities form an important part of community life across the County, including Y Parc. This remains the case in schools within the Berwyn catchment area which have seen the closure of their schools. Pupils at Ysgol Y Parc currently join their peers at Ysgol OM</p>

	successful at the national Eisteddfod. / Concerns about after school activities (e.g. rehearsals or clubs), will parents regarded these as impractical due to inconvenience caused by travel		Edwards for a range of extra-curricular activities.
18.	Broader factors than education and finance require consideration when considering schools organization;	4	Language and Community Impact Assessments were carried out by independent consultants. It remains the case, however, that the primary purpose of a school is to provide the best possible education.
19.	An adequate assessment of the impact that the school's closure would have on the community has not been completed / Language and community impact assessments were held prior to presenting firm proposals; consequently, all responses were notional.	1	A full community impact assessment was undertaken in line with Assembly Government guidelines prior to publishing proposals. Councils are expected to conduct such assessments in preparing proposals.
20.	Closure would have a detrimental effect on Cylch Meithrin Maesywaen, numbers will decrease which will lead to closure / The nursery school that is a feeder for Parc and Tryweryn has the highest number of pupils since its establishment. 24 attend the cylch meithrin and 39 attend "Ti a Fi". 20 infants will follow next year / Would have a detrimental effect on these establishments / Closure would not only affect the village of Y Parc, but also the wider community e.g. Cylch Meithrin Maesywaen would suffer	8	There is no reason why this should be the case. Schools in Y Berwyn are currently entitled to provide primary education but choose not to. Nursery education is provided by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin. The same provision could be maintained, if that is the wish of the communities, even if Ysgol y Parc was to close.
21.	Education		
22.	ESTYN report (2007) noted that Ysgol y Parc was good, effective, provided a complete education / There is no criticism of the standard of education. / School provides first rate education / Many past pupils have reached a high level in their career or occupation and many have succeeded in business – three have recently completed their doctorates / Although school is small, there is no evidence to show that that this is detrimental to the pupils / Class sizes in alternative school would be bigger decreasing the standard of education / School has educated children of the area for 135 years / Initial Working Group report was entitled "Primary Education of the Best Quality for Gwynedd Children" – what is wrong with the quality of education children of Parc receive? / How is it demonstrated that closing the school will improve education? / Closure detrimental to children's education / It is a requirement that any alternative provision for school closure is either as good if not an improvement on the current provision	31	This is true. The school received 7 Grades 2 in its most recent ESTYN inspection. Ysgol OM Edwards received 7 Grades 1 in its most recent inspection. There is no question that pupils from the Parc would receive education at Ysgol OM Edwards which is at least equal to that currently provided at Ysgol y Parc.
23.	The School fulfils most of the aims set out by the Minister For	1	The review of provision in the Berwyn area and the development of

	Education in the 021/2009 Circular		this specific proposal was undertaken in line with Assembly Government guidelines and in line with the Council's own expectations as outlined in its <i>Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy (April 2009).
24.	Faith in current policies that education standard would not decrease should closure occur	1	The Council is expected to plan for the delivery of the best possible education for children.
25.	There is inadequate information as to the exact nature of the collaboration recommended between the development of the town of Bala and the rural schools	1	Collaboration is necessarily an evolving process which is developed voluntarily between schools. The Council does not propose that the three schools – Ysgolion OM Edwards, Ffridd-y-Llyn and Bro Tryweryn – should be formally federated. The schools may wish to move along that route in future, but the proposal here is that the three schools should work together to make best use of resources and expertise while also having access to facilities at the proposed new lifelong learning campus in Bala town.
26.	Buildings		
27.	The building is in good condition; the school and the Hall were renovated in 2001; adequate areas for teachers, headteacher and PPA; adequate space for ITC; access for the disabled is good; there is adequate space for the Foundation Phase provided that there is investment; the school does not have a designated playground but the village field and O M Edwards field and Bala leisure centre is used / Cannot see how a playing field will benefit the children, lack of one has not had a detrimental affect, several past pupils have played sports for Wales	9	The school is in a relatively good condition. However, it is an aging building and does not provide the type of facilities expected of a 21st Century School. The school has one ancillary room which is used both as the headteacher's office and staff room.
28.	What future will the building have if the school is closed? The Llanycil community cannot reasonably be expected to be responsible for funding maintenance of the building without a school / Members of community tried contacting council to discover what the plans are with the building with no response received / How can an integrated school/community hall exist without the school? / The school is a Community through Lease school / The Council would need to provide more funding to maintain the community hall / What will the cost of the community impact assessment's mitigating circumstance	5	Ysgol y Parc 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 to Llanycil 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

			<p>Council with a view to beginning discussions on potential uses of the site if the proposal to close the school is implemented. Discussions will continue.</p> <p>The future of the Community Hall would need to be discussed with the local community. The school – through its headteacher – is currently provided with additional funding to act as a designated community focused school.</p>
29.	<p>What information is available on renovation work on Ysgol OM Edwards? What guarantee is there of a substantial improvement in resources? Spending £30,000 on up-grading Ysgol OM Edwards building is mentioned.</p>	1	<p>The figure of £30,000 referred to during the Catchment Area review refers to the increase to the annual budget allocation of Ysgol OM Edwards on the basis that 14 pupils (2009 figures) would transfer from Y Parc to the school. As numbers in y Parc currently stand at 19, Ysgol OM Edwards would receive, if the proposal was implemented today, an increase of £46,727.</p> <p>The proposal contained within the County’s proposal for Ysgol OM Edwards anticipates spending approximately £900,000 on providing an improved car park and bus drop off point, a new classroom, new staffroom, new teaching resources area, new resource storage area to enable better use of the hall, investment in the reduction of energy use, kitchen upgrade, upgraded IT provision including wi-fi internet links, investment in the foundation phase area, new disabled toilet and improvements to the disabled access, mitigating current maintenance and health and safety issues</p>
30.	<p>An assertion that inadequate information has been provided on expenditure and maintenance during recent years / The Council has not presented an architect’s report either on the building’s condition or sufficiently detailed reports on maintenance expenditure. If the school building’s condition is defective then this is due to the Council’s neglect.</p>	3	<p>Full reports have been published and circulated to the school. Following a request during the statutory consultation meeting at the school on 10 January 2011, further information was sent to the school. The school is in a relatively good condition. However, it is an aging building and does not provide the type of facilities expected of a 21st Century School. The school has one ancillary room which is used both as the headteacher’s office and staff room. A copy of the latest condition survey was provided following a request at the statutory consultation meeting.</p>
31.	<p>No explanation was provided prior to the statutory consultation that work was required on up-grading and extending the Ysgol OM Edwards building in order to admit pupils from Parc</p>	1	<p>As it stands, Ysgol O M Edwards has sufficient classroom area to accommodate the additional children from Ysgol y Parc but would not be able to accommodate any subsequent future increase in pupil</p>

			<p>numbers. Also, the building requires upgrading works to offer the other facilities expected in a fit for purpose educational facility for the 21st Century e.g. resource area, staff room, adaptations to the hall, adaptations to ensure adequate and safe parking/pupil drop off etc. Undertaking these upgrading works will not only ensure that the buildings are suitable for education provision in the 21st century but will also ensure that there will be sufficient accommodation should there be an increase in pupil numbers in the future. Ysgol O.M Edwards currently provides education for 51 pupils and projections suggest this will rise to 58 by 2013. Ysgol y Parc provides for 19 pupils with projections suggesting that 20 pupils will attend by 2013. On this basis, 77 pupils will attend the new area school by 2013. Ysgol OM Edwards can currently accommodate 69 pupils aged 4-11 and 6 nursery age pupils. The school could therefore be slightly over-capacity by 2013. The Council's Strategic Outline Plan for school buildings outlines the Berwyn catchment area as the Council's priority project for the period 2012-15, and this includes upgrading and extending Ysgol OM Edwards.</p>
32.	Staffing		
33.	Incomplete information is available on the nature of catchment-area staffing after implementing the proposals / Worried about job losses / Cost of redundancies considered?	5	Full information has been provided in the statutory consultation papers.
34.	Services		
35.	The area has very few public resources and services; there is no shop or other facilities outside Bala/ Gritting once/twice, no police, ditches not opened, drains blocked and having to carry bins several miles to meet the bin lorry / We must ask the Council before work is done on the roads / Pay high rates and no services, therefore no value for money / Would the closure of Ysgol y Parc be detrimental to local businesses and the local economy	6	While a school may make a significant contribution to the life of a community, its primary purpose is to provide the best possible education for its pupils. Even so, the Council has undertaken impact assessment in line with the Assembly Government's expectations.
36.	Transport		
37.	The area has very little public transport / Transport for children would be required; the cost would be quite a bit in excess of the £15,000 identified by the Council (approx £20,000); two buses would be required; almost 7 miles travelling distance from home in the Parc catchment-area to Ysgol OM Edwards / How accurate is the £15,000?	16	This is true for many rural areas. Transport would be provided to pupils aged 4+ in line with the Council's transport policy. The Council's School Transport officers have visited the catchment area to travel the likely routes with the headteacher. Officers confirm that the route from Y Parc to Llanuwchllyn is safe and can

	/ The roads are unsuitable for buses / Safety issues / It will be very difficult to provide an effective transport system from Parc to Llanuwchllyn as the Parc catchment-area leads in three different directions / It is envisaged that pupils will lose more education due to the weather; road gritting would incur higher costs for the Council / Are the travel costs to Ysgol y Parc correct because none of the pupils currently receive transport from the county / Ysgol y Parc was closed for only one day last year in comparison with a number of days in Y Berwyn / unfair to expect young children to travel on buses the journey could take more than 30 minutes / it will be inconvenient for parents to have to take children further and to collect them at different times of day because of extra-curricular activities, is easier when school is closer / children cannot walk to school / worse for the environment due to the use of more fuel.		accommodate a 20-seater bus. It would require the provision of one bus to accommodate up to 20 pupils and travel times would be in line with the Council's policy. The costs of transport fuel should be balanced against the costs of heating and lighting school buildings.
38.	For how long will the current transport policy continue	1	The Council's School Transport policy is in line with statutory expectations as set out by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Council's policy must meet these minimum expectations.
39.	Research		
40.	Documents and reports are mentioned including articles that compare the situation in Wales with that of other UK countries, Report by "Cambridge Study Group", report by David Reynolds, Welsh Language Society Publications; the entire evidence needs to be scrutinized.	1	The Council Working Group which prepared the <i>Excellent Primary Education for All Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy considered a range of evidence, both written and delivered by various organisations and individuals.
41.	Statistics		
42.	Number projections are misleading; growth is expected / Last years figures should not be used / Pupil numbers are increasing; there are plans to build 4 or 5 new houses in the catchment-area; there are already 15 children of below school age residing in the area / Increase in numbers will decrease the empty spaces – in CRP minute of May 2010 Education Portfolio Leader said that she had decided to propose closing Ysgol y Parc to reduce the number of empty spaces following a report from ESTYN. This does not take into account the closure of Ysgol Llawr y Betws / Within 4 years, 29 pupils will attend Ysgol y Parc	10	All statistics were presented to school representatives at the Catchment Area Review Panel meetings and, where necessary, were amended. Schools agreed to the final statistics pack. Latest pupil projections are based on figures supplied by the schools in September 2010. Ysgol OM Edwards envisages an increase in pupil number from 51 to 58, while Ysgol y Parc expects an increase from 19 to 20. The building of new homes on average produces one primary age pupil per four homes.
43.	The Process		

44.	Gwynedd Council have not included the Parc community in the discussions / meetings were open to parents, but not to other young adults and parents to be.	2	Representatives of staff, governors and parents were invited to attend meetings of the Catchment Area Review Panel. Non-statutory meetings were held at individual schools for staff, parents and governors. Pupils were afforded the opportunity to take part in these initial discussions. Statutory Consultation papers were circulated to a range of community organisations and further copies were distributed to the school to allow their further dissemination. At the school's request, the statutory meeting for parents on 10 January 2011 was opened up to the wider community.
45.	An official complaint was lodged against the propriety of Gwynedd Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee discussions held in May 2010; the response received was unsatisfactory;	1	A response was made by the Council's Democracy and Legal Manager
46.	Inadequate time had been given to the statutory consultation; the wrong papers were sent	1	The statutory consultation began on 13 December 2011 and papers were delivered to the school and posted to other consultees the previous week. The consultation closed on 4 February 2011, allowing 7 weeks. At the school's request, further copies of the statutory document were posted to the school before Christmas. The consultation is entirely in line with Welsh Assembly Government guidance.
47.	Gwynedd Schools Re-organisation Improvement Working Group meetings are mentioned and that headteachers who are working group members have unanimously rejected a report commissioned by an independent adviser	1	This comment refers to a previous working group which met on three occasions in 2008 to discuss proposals for the development of a system of formal federalisation of schools. A report commissioned from an external consultant was criticized by headteachers on that working group and rejected. Along with the Council's Reorganisation Strategy published in 2007, the report was rejected by the Council in June 2008. At that meeting, the Council established a new working group of elected members – one representing each political grouping – to develop a new strategy. This working group met 15 times and produced the <i>Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd</i> strategy which is the basis for the current review.
48.	The minutes of the County Advisory Panel were not scrutinized / The proposal is not based on discussions that occurred in the catchment review panel meetings / Creates a dangerous precedence to proceed with a proposal that is opposed by all the panel and all the community	2	These meetings were minuted.
49.	The Portfolio Leader for Education is not releasing the whole evidence	3	The Council has released all information produced during the

	to the Councillors / “Since the councillors and officers insist on sharing incorrect information we ask for another vote on the matter of closure since we are convinced that the vote by the full council in May 2010 in completely worthless”/ Councillors saying one thing, and doing another		catchment area review meetings, all impact assessments, costings, and other information. Regular meetings have been held with school representatives. All papers are freely available on the Council’s website and by request.
50.	Is creating uncertainty about the school’s future part of the education department’s strategy?	1	The Council has agreed that the current system of school organisation does not appear to be sustainable and has identified a process for the review of school organisation across the County. The Council is obliged to follow Welsh Assembly Government and other legal guidelines. A review of the process of reviewing school organisation was presented to the Council in December 2010 which identified the slow pace of catchment area reviews and the uncertainty this creates as a significant issue. The Council is seeking to speed up review processes to reduce feelings of uncertainty.
51.	No Councillors have been to visit the area or school	1	Local councillors and councillors sitting on the Catchment Area Review Panel visited the school at the commencement of the review process in Y Berwyn. The Portfolio Holder has also been in attendance at all statutory meetings.
52.	The statutory document contained several incorrect facts / At the statutory meeting several questions were asked without receiving satisfactory answers / In the meetings and the consultation document, lies, nonsense and incorrect figures were presented / Document said that there are four community school when y Parc is the only one, the other three are ‘Ysgolion Bro’ / Document notes £400,000 to be spent on Y Berwyn – hopefully this will go to improving the education level there / Inadequate response will result in a case to the Local Government Ombudsman on grounds of Gwynedd Council’s maladministration / In the meeting the closure was quoted as a “business plan” – this mean that children’s education is a business? / Statutory document said “a bid will be submitted” for money and at the meeting officers said a bid had been made – do you think this is misleading? / Statutory Document had only 4 disadvantages despite all the correspondence previously sent by the Parc community opposing the idea of closure	7	Correspondents were invited to draw attention to any errors. One error – at point 9.6 which referred to the provision of nursery education by playgroups – was corrected at the statutory consultation meetings (nursery education is provided by Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin). A letter was sent to the school following the meeting of 10 January providing further information to specific points raised by representatives of the school and wider community. The statutory document clearly states that Ysgol y Parc is a community-focused school while four other schools in the area are community schools (a legal term which applies to virtually all schools in Gwynedd).

53.	At the meeting on 10-02-11 the minutes were promised for non Welsh speaking parents. No translation has been sent. Is this fair for English speaking parents?	1	All minutes were sent in Welsh on 14-01-11 to headteacher. Comments on the parents meeting minutes were received 21-01-11 with comments on governors meeting to follow. Comments on governor meetings not received to date. Translation of all minutes were to be sent together following receipt of comments.
54.	Finance		
55.	The closure of Ysgol y Parc would not lead to savings of £71,000; the savings made would be much lower / Once travelling, running costs of the hall and extra costs for running the community are considered in reality there will be no savings / Saving money-£1 million to close school but £80,000 to keep it open? / Is money a justifiable reason for closure? / Is £900,000 upgrade to Ysgol OM Edwards factored into this saving? / Saving would only be £2.67 a head extra per pupil in the County / Cost of development officers to restructure community not considered. The savings are marginal / ESTYN's most recent report on the school notes that the School provides value for money.	18	The proposal has been fully costed and it is anticipated that, after taking account of additional transport costs of £15,000, would realised savings of £71,000. Per pupil spending at Ysgol y Parc is £7394. This is more than double the per pupil spending average across the County, and one of the highest in the County. Catchment area reviews continue throughout the County. It is not possible to foresee the outcome of those reviews at this stage.
56.	Any situation is sustainable as long as the authorities wish to maintain the situation	1	The cross-party working group presented a report to the full Council in 2009 which agreed, without objection, that the present situation with regard to primary education in Gwynedd is not sustainable.
57.	The statistics on schools allocations do not include either transport or SEN cost. None of this funding was spent at y Parc.	1	Both these costs are met centrally by the Local Authority.
58.	Accepted that smaller schools are more expensive but the proposal should be reconsidered. Some things are more important than money / Is the saving from the closure of Ysgol y Parc enough to justify educational and communal damage?	3	Gwynedd councillors will make the final decision based on information contained in these reports and other background papers.
59.	There is mention of keeping a percentage of savings within the catchment-area, and this is an indication of the Council's lack of certainty	1	The proposal to develop a policy of keeping 20% of any savings realised through school reorganisation within the catchment area which realises the saving for the duration of the county-wide reorganisation programme is subject to consultation with representative bodies. Further information on the proposal will be released as discussions continue.
60.	National Assembly for Wales recently dismissed a proposal for a new school in Llandysul partly because it allowed for an increase in pupil numbers. It will be very problematic that the finance will be provided for OM Edwards to educate for 90 pupils	1	The Council is not privy to information on the reasons for the Government's refusal of a bid for capital funding to establish a lifelong learning campus in Llandysul. Local authorities are expected to plan the supply of school places and to allow for growth in pupil numbers.

61.	Do not agree with the deceptive use of “per pupil” figures as they are theoretical at best. £7394 now but numbers will increase next year and should it reach the 25 point it would be £5324 per pupil	1	Publication of per pupil spending is a statutory requirement of the Welsh Assembly Government.
62.	Greater savings could be realised by federalising Ysgol y Parc rather than closing it	1	This it not correct. The majority of school costs are created by the employment of staff, maintaining a site would not reduce staff and therefore there would be no savings. It is estimated that establishing Ysgol y Parc as part of a federal arrangement in Penllyn would save less than £3,000 annually compared with savings of £71,000 from closing Ysgol y Parc.
63.	Other Options		
64.	Support for altering the education structure in the Penllyn area but the favoured option is to see formal collaboration between y Parc and other rural schools in Penllyn / All options were not sufficiently considered as the statutory document considers “collaboration” but not all the different types of collaboration which could occur – “collaboration” results in no saving but this would depend upon which type of collaboration would be under consideration. April 2010 new rules were announced about federalisation and this was not considered / There is unanimous support in the area to maintain y Parc as part of a collaboration arrangement / Request for Council to now consider a federal option between 4 schools in Penllyn, this would bring advantages to all the schools including keeping the unique work that occurs in the Parc, would be a more sustainable model, would fortify the investment in Y Bala and would be a truly innovative proposal / Collaboration with Ysgol OM Edwards already occurs; they study together, swimming and sports lessons; the collaboration was not established further due to a fear that would serve as an excuse for school closure / Support the principle of establishing federal arrangements between the four rural schools at Penllyn due to robust federal structure	8	Establishing a federal arrangement with other schools in the Berwyn catchment area was among the options considered by the Education Portfolio Holder in developing this proposal. The federalisation option was not put forward for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it would not increase the size of teaching groups at the site to a size consistent with the Council’s strategy • other schools in the catchment area provide education of at least comparable quality at a lower cost • it would not impact on the wide disparity in per pupil spending between Ysgol y Parc and other schools in the catchment area and would not contribute savings which would be reinvested in school budgets • it would not reduce surplus places • schools which have fewer than 15 pupils do not receive sufficient funding to provide a headteacher and teacher.
65.	12 officers travelled to Parc for the last consultation evening in 9 individual cars – a total of 900 miles at 45p a mile	1	As it was anticipated that a number of questions requiring specialist responses – ranging across educational, the process, finance, legal and property issues - would be raised, the Council decided that a number of specialist officers should attend. Officers live in various parts of Gwynedd, are based in various workplaces and many had been out across the County on Council business prior to the meeting,

66.	Council have been inconsistent with their methods of contacting parents Officers have shown a lack of respect towards parents and have got into a habit of telling half truths	1	The Council has sought to remain consistent in the way it contacts relevant stakeholders. It would not be in anybody's interests for officers or councillors to tell "half-truths".
67.	Why doesn't Westminster give a fairer financial allocation to Wales? / England's Educational Policies would favour keeping rural schools like Y Parc open	1	Education in Wales is a matter for Local Authorities and the Welsh Assembly Government. Cyngor Gwynedd works within national policies.

APPENDIX 4

ANALYSIS OF THE PUPIL'S QUESTIONNAIRE

The children's opinion was sought during the consultation. 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.

Beuno Sant, Bro Tegid and Y Berwyn schools chose to complete the questionnaire while a session with a young people's facilitator was organised for Ysgol y Parc.

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?

Ysgol Beuno Sant		
	Comments	Number of comments
How do you feel about this?	☺	8
	☹	9
	☹	11
Does anything about this cause you concern?	No longer being a Church in Wales School.	3
	Bullying.	26
	Homework.	7
	Miss teachers.	3
	Unable to find the classroom.	16
	Don't know whether or not I will make friends/miss friends.	9
	New school is too large/too many children.	12
What do you look forward to most?	More friends.	17
	New teachers.	10
	A better playground.	10
	A larger school.	6
	Better school trips.	12
	More tasty school lunch.	8
	More interesting lessons.	7
	New school uniform.	5
	Homework.	5
What are the most important things for you about a school?	Exciting activities.	9
	Good teachers.	16
	Good friends.	17
	Rules.	17
	Resources.	11
	Good trips.	11
	Good Dinner.	9
	Football pitch.	6
	Gym.	5
	Being happy.	4
	Being safe.	6
	Homework.	4

Ysgol Bro Tegid		
	Comments	Number of comments
How do you feel about this?	☺	2
	☹	7
	☹	12
Does anything about this cause you concern?	Bullies	5
	What if things don't go to plan?	1
	Not enough space / too many pupils	5
	Sharing a canteen	1
	Only one yard	1
	Older children much bigger than the young children	4
	Teachers may lose their jobs	5
What do you look forward to most?	New friends	14
	Nothing	1
	New teachers	9
	More facilities	5
	Better buildings	4
	Bigger school	3
What are the most important things to you about a school?	Computers	4
	Toys	1
	Yard	1
	Hall	2
	Teachers	9
	Classes	2
	Rules	7
	Friends	4
	Trip	5
	Lunch	4

Ysgol Y Berwyn		
	Comments	Number of comments
How do you feel about this?	☺	55
	☹	159
	☹	41
Does anything about this cause you concern?	Impact on the 6th form	4
	Young children mix with older children	55
	School Uniform	5
	School's Name	1
	Ysgol Y Berwyn remains the same	1
	Teachers lose posts	6
	More classes	1
	School size	4
	Playing Field	3
	Construction work has an impact on education	30
	Will the whole field be used?	12
	Longer queues at lunch time	

	Will there be parking space? Nothing, it's a good idea Bullying Change of school Perhaps, children at y Parc do not wish to attend Ysgol OM Edwards and wish to attend the new School as it is better Not enough space for everybody Close some primary schools Too many children in classes = receive less attention from teachers Not enough food Children miss out on the experience of moving from a primary to a secondary school It will destroy smaller communities such as Y Parc Lose the Welsh language	4 90 9 9 2 5 18 1 2 10 5 1
To what do you look forward most?	A larger school New building Seeing the new school being completed School Uniform Lunch A modern school Making new friends Nothing Name of the new school Having a new theatre Attend the school 6th form More resources Sports A new school for Y Parc children Have new windows Being with the Junior children	12 19 31 2 2 15 21 42 2 11 2 16 3 1 1 6
What are the most important things to you about a school?	Good resources A better building More space Good teachers / more teachers Sports Lunch School Uniform More space in the refectory Good education Library and ITC rooms School's name Safety Friends Having fun Reminiscences A shuttle bus to take children	25 6 13 34 32 10 7 2 121 3 1 6 57 18 4

	home during the day if they feel ill	1
	Everybody happy	12
	The Welsh language	1
	Pupils	2

Ysgol Y Parc		
	Comments	Number of comments
How do you feel about this?	☺ ☹ ☹	1 0 22
Does anything about this cause you concern?	Larger classes. Children receive less attention. Families do not wish to reside at the Parc if there is no school there. Fewer children have an opportunity to participate in competitions and activities at a larger school. Have to travel to school by bus, and children moving around the bus make the journey dangerous.	Not specified how many times each comment was made.
What do you look forward to most?	More friends.	2
What are the most important things to you about a school?	The education, being taught by good teachers. A happy place, with children not quarrelling. Everybody receive attention in classes that are not too large. Everybody has an opportunity to participate in activities and competitions. That the school is part of the community.	Not specified how many times each comment was made.

APPENDIX 5

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Matters relating to the proposal to close Ysgol Y Parc

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS – ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED RELATING TO THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE YSGOL Y PARC

What contact and communication have there been between the Council and the community in Y Parc?

Since discussions began on education in the Berwyn catchment area there has been continuous contact between the community of Y Parc and Lead members and Council officers. As well as numerous correspondences and emails, face to face meetings have been held. These discussions have included the school's future and also the contact between the school building and community use.

The Council has shown commitment to ensure support to the sustainability of community use of the hall and in this way the continuance of the activities held there.

The discussion about the after-use of Ysgol Y Parc building has continued. In fact, the Property Service has been in recent contact (last correspondence sent mid February) outlining and explaining the nature of the lease and noting the Council's responsibility.

Also, the Council has made suggestions about the funding that would be available (about £5500 annually) to maintain the provision in the future, as well as offering the support of the Regeneration Officer to the community. The discussions are continuing.

What are the implications of delaying taking action on the proposal to close Ysgol y Parc?

A significant change to the closing action date of Ysgol y Parc would mean a fundamental change to the proposal, and therefore a need for statutory re-consultation on the proposal. This would mean reformulating the statutory consultation paper and reconvening 3 meetings. Also, there would be a delay because of the need to ensure appropriate time according to the requirements of the act and there would be a need to report back once again to the Council's round of committees.

Messages have come to the Council from heads that the process of schools reorganisation is prolonged and is creating uncertainty and instability in the system.

The Council has submitted a bid to the Assembly Government for financial support to realise the proposals. A response is awaited from the Government during Summer 2011. With resources becoming scarcer nationally and locally, it is likely there will be fewer successful bids than originally hoped. It is likely that the Government will prioritise bids on the basis of willingness to act. Slippage of the action date, forcing a new period of consultation over the Summer 2011, would mean that the Council would not have taken a final decision before the Government comes to a conclusion on the schemes it wants to support. There is therefore a risk to the credibility of the Business Plan already submitted to the Government. If the Council is unsuccessful with the bid for Band A (that is the period 2012-15), there

will not be another opportunity to get access to capital grants until 2015. This could mean a delay of at least 3 years in establishing the lifelong campus in Bala town.

The Minister for Education (in the *Consultation Document – School Organisation – Possible Changes to the Process – February 2011*) clearly suggests that he now intends to exercise his powers to intervene in local matters:

- to order local authorities to close schools if they are not operating appropriately
- to create specific regulations for schools under a certain size (15-20 is suggested) in order to close those schools without going through the full statutory process

What if the Assembly’s funding does not materialise?

The Council has submitted a bid to the Assembly Government for financial support to realise the proposals.

The proposal is part of a £10.2m project in the Berwyn catchment area to ensure that schools in the area are upgraded to the standard of the Assembly Government’s 21st Century Schools. The Council has submitted a bid to the Assembly Government for 70% of the cost (£7.7m, which would leave the Council to fund the other £2.56m). About £1.3m of general project costs was earmarked for upgrading work on OM Edwards, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn schools.

Gwynedd Council’s bid is strong and realistic. A response is awaited from the Government during Summer 2011.

If the bid was unsuccessful, there would be a need to look at the situation if it comes to that. The Council would have to consider whether it could fund the Council’s financial strategic plan. In many other counties, because funding is getting scarcer, this has led to more radical proposals which mean that facilities and provision is concentrated and centralised.

Was federalisation or federation considered at all?

During the discussions in the Catchment Area Review Panel a large number of models were considered including working together. All the models considered during the discussions are noted. Also, different aspects of these options were considered. Details can be seen on the Council’s website:

Possible Model Document:

http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1027/PAD2_minutes_021209_DRAFT.pdf

Models for school re-organisation in the Y Berwyn catchment-area

<http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/upload/public/attachments/1065/PapersPAD3YBerwyn.pdf>

The choices considered during the review process included:

- No change
- Federalisation of Ysgol y Parc with Ysgol OM Edwards and some or both of the other two rural schools in the Berwyn catchment area.
- Closing each of the six primary schools and providing either one primary school or one lifelong learning school in Bala town.

It was alleged that establishing a federal arrangement for the Penllyn area- including the four rural schools outside Bala town and also possibly including the proposed lifelong learning school in Bala town – would create more savings than closing Ysgol y Parc. Council officers estimate that establishing Ysgol y Parc as part of a federal arrangement on Penllyn would save around £3,000 annually compared with savings of £71,000 from closing Ysgol y Parc. A similar arrangement including the town school would not create a much bigger saving.

It is worth noting that two types of federalisation/or federation have been highlighted recently:

1. “Soft” Federation: with this type each school remains as a separate entity (with school name and budget remaining separate) but with one Federal Governing Body. Possibly with such an arrangement the schools would share a Headteacher, but the biggest change would be to formalise collaboration and the sharing of resources between the schools. It would be up to each school to join or leave the federation. Only in a new school context can the Authority join a school in a federation according to these rules.
2. “Hard” Federation: this arrangement is highlighted within the Prospective Education Act for Wales 2011 which is currently awaiting confirmation from the Queen. With this provision the Authority will have the means to bring schools together to create Federal Schools. The measure mentions that a Federal School would be treated as one school in any instances which need to be appointed. Once the measure is in force it is anticipated that the Regulations will deal with the details of establishing and maintaining a Federal School which should address staffing, governing and financial aspects

Details are noted below of federal arrangements with four schools. Of course, any savings would be less if fewer schools were considered. The Council’s finance officers have confirmed figures for the possible federal arrangements, see below:

Federalisation of Ysgol O M Edwards, Parc, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn	
Federalisation of 4 schools - O M Edwards, Parc, Bro Tryweryn and Ffridd y Llyn	
	£
1	64,537
Appoint Federal School Head (<i>maximum pt 15</i>) <i>salary based on the total number of pupils of the 4 schools</i>	
2	-239,756
Abolish 4 Head posts (<i>maximum</i>)	
3	201,748
Create 4 Site Head posts (<i>maximum</i>)	
4	-17,940
Abolish 4 x ½ management day	
5	-26,910
Abolish 6 x ½ CPA day	
6	2,000
Teachers’ travelling costs between sites	
7	13,455
Create ½ management day for 3 Site Heads	
8	-2,866
Total Saving	

Time division assumptions

Head -

2 management day

3 CPA achievement day for teachers

Sit Head -

4 class days

½ CPA day

½ management day

N.B.

1 Small savings are anticipated on further costs such as Financial Council CLG, Area Office CLG, Governors' Clerk, etc.

N.B. These figures do not include any assumption of the costs of schemes to
2 transport pupils between sites

The report presented to the Council Board on 15 March noted why the proposal to maintain Ysgol y Parc as a school or a site within a federal arrangement was not presented for the following reasons:

- increasing the size of learning groups on the site would not be consistent with the Council's strategy.
- other schools in the catchment area are providing education that is of at least comparable standard for a smaller cost
- it would not affect the wide disparity of expenditure by pupils between Ysgol y Parc and the catchment area's other schools and it would not contribute towards savings to be reinvested in schools budgets
- it would not reduce the number of surplus places
- schools with fewer than 18 pupils do not receive enough funding to provide a head and teacher.

Was any consideration given to transport issues?

Gwynedd Council's strategy for primary education notes that it has the aim of ensuring pupils do not travel more than 30 minutes one way to school. Those who were consulted expressed concern that the travel route from Parc to the site of Ysgol O.M. Edwards was narrow and unsuitable for large buses.

The Council's transport officers have assessed the travel route and they are satisfied that it is practical to provide one mini bus within the Council's transport policy, safely. The assessment was carried out in January 2011 in the company of the school Head. A 20 seater bus already makes the journey to transport secondary school age children from Y Parc to Bala.

The transport costs presented come from the specialist knowledge of the Education Department's Transport Unit. It is estimated that a mini bus (20 seats) could provide transport for approximately £15,000 per annum. A bus of this size would be sufficient to transport all the children from the Parc catchment area to OM Edwards. Even if a 50 seater bus was needed, it is estimated that the cost would be around £22-24,000 per annum.

It should be remembered that the prospective savings of £71,000 per annum have already taken into consideration the £15,000 that would be needed to transport Y Parc children to Llanuwchllyn.

At present, Gwynedd Council does not provide adults on school buses, except for the driver. However, as part of the Council's response to the statutory consultations in the Tywyn area, the Council has undertaken to ensure that safety belts are provided on any new bus contracts and to provide supervision by an adult at the beginning of the new arrangements. The Council will review the provision of supervision by an adult after the first full terms of the new arrangement.

What numbers are predicted for Ysgol Y Parc?

Ysgol y Parc is the second smallest primary school in Gwynedd and the smallest within the Berwyn catchment area with 19 pupils in September 2010. It has not, at any time within the last 35 years, provided for more than 27 pupils (4 – 10 years of age) and the number reached a low of eight during the last ten years.

Based on information supplied by Ysgol Y Parc itself in, the school anticipates that pupil numbers will continue to be around 20 during the next three years.

Will this proposal change the size of classes?

In the Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd Strategy adopted unanimously in April 2009, it was noted:

“We will aim – through our schemes – to achieve the following as regards class sizes:

- That there will be no more than 30 pupils of the same age in a Key Stage 2 class;*
- We will, over a period of years, aim to ensure a maximum of 25 pupils of the same age in a primary class;*
- Aim to ensure that no mixed age class has more than 20 pupils or less than 12 pupils”.*

As noted in a report submitted to the Board on 15/3/11 –the average size of classes in Ysgol y Parc currently is 9.5 whilst the average in Ysgol OM Edwards is 17. The strategy provides that the aim should be to ensure classes of between 12 and 25 pupils.

It is anticipated that there will be larger groups of children in Ysgol O M Edwards – based on 2009 numbers, the proposal anticipates that the school would have a budget which would allow 3 teachers teaching 64 pupils, or average class sizes of 21 on average.

There are currently surplus places in both schools and this proposal addresses this situation.

And what will be the proposed expenditure in Ysgol O.M. Edwards?

Under the Council’s Asset Management Plan it is estimated that in excess of £107,000 will be required for expenditure on maintenance and Health and Safety matters at the two schools, Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol O.M. Edwards.

There is an intention to extend and upgrade Ysgol O.M. Edwards in order for it to provide the best facilities for education, e.g.

- Work to make the building fit for purpose
- Traffic control work
- Safety and IT
- Maintenance and fire health and safety
- Access for the disabled
- Energy conservation

The work will also ensure that there is enough space available if there is an increase in pupil numbers in the future.

Were the effects on the Welsh language and the effect on the community considered?

According to the Government’s guidelines, Equalities, Language and Community Impact Assessments were undertaken on the proposals.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the proposals. It was seen that no significant harmful effects would be expected from the proposal. In fact, as the proposal means substantial upgrading and extension to Ysgol OM Edwards, any concerns about access will receive appropriate attention.

A full and independent Language Impact Assessment was carried out and is available on the Council’s website.

The report came to the conclusion that the proposal would strengthen the use of Welsh in the classroom and outside, for primary age pupils in Y Parc and Llanuwchllyn.

The assessment came to the conclusion that the proposal could strengthen the use of Welsh in the classroom and outside, and generally the proposal would have a positive impact on the language.

A full and independent Community Impact Assessment was carried out on the proposals.

The majority of primary pupils from the Parc catchment area currently attend that school. All the primary age pupils from the OM Edwards catchment area are currently attending that school. It is likely that rural education will be strengthened in the Llanuwchllyn area and the investment in the school's buildings will keep the children within the catchment area.

The assessment found that closing Ysgol y Parc and providing places for Parc pupils at Ysgol OM Edwards, Llanuwchllyn, could have a negative impact on the Parc community. The report makes a number of recommendations regarding the steps that could be taken to reduce the negative effect of closing schools. The Council will attempt to act on a number of such steps, including support to maintain a community provision. The Regeneration Officer for the local area will work closely with the community.

The hall in the building of Ysgol y Parc is a community resource which will be protected formally under a lease. 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. Discussions have already been initiated regarding ways of continuing with this arrangement in future and options have been noted regarding the building's future and also the resources which will be available to maintain the use. The discussions are continuing. The Council has already made positive contributions to such discussions and have proposed assistance to the community to ensure that the resource is sustainable in future and will thereby protect the activities held in the building.

What is the standard of education in the schools?

Ysgol y Parc and Ysgol OM Edwards provide education of a good standard.

In its last inspection Ysgol y Parc achieved seven Grade 2.

Ysgol OM Edwards achieved seven Grade 1 in its last inspection.

There is every reason to expect that the establishment of new facilities at Ysgol OM Edwards, and bigger and stronger classes coupled with a larger pool of teaching staff and support staff will maintain and improve educational standards. The proposal should assist with the provision of a wide and balanced curriculum within an educational establishment which has benefited from investment and which will be sustainable in future.

Did the Council correspond and consult on this proposal at all?

Consultations were undertaken under the requirements of the Schools' Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 and in the Government's guidelines. A statutory consultation meeting was convened in Ysgol Y Parc on 10 January 2011.

There were comprehensive discussions in the Catchment Area Review Panel and during the process. There have been continuous two way communications in the form of meetings and correspondences. A Berwyn Catchment Area Review Panel was established in November 2009. The first meeting of the Panel was held on 4 November 2009. A further four meetings were convened, on 2 December 2009, 4 February 2010, 23 March 2010 and 12 May 2010.

The statistical information submitted in the statutory consultative paper had been agreed with the school representatives at meetings of the Catchment Area Review Panel.

When will the Statutory Notices be released?

The Council is requested to permit releasing statutory notices in order to implement the proposal to close Y Parc school and provide places for the pupils in OM Edwards school.

In accordance with Educational Regulations (Schools Reorganisation Proposals) (Wales) 1999 (S.I. 1999/1671) as revised, which became operational on 1st March 2011, the time limit for responding to statutory notices published is one month after the date published. A period of one month has to be allowed in order to allow those who object to respond. In addition, sufficient time has to be provided outside of school holidays to respond to Notices.

Due to statutory obligations and the guidance given in the Circular 21/2009, Statutory Notices should not be issued until funds have been secured in order to realize any plans which need investment.

APPENDIX 6

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

APPENDIX 6 –

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Circular 21/2009 School Reorganisation proposals
Gwynedd Council – Excellent Primary Education for Children in Gwynedd
Agenda's and papers of Catchment Area Review Panel Meetings including Statistical Information and Models considered
Language, Community and Equality Impact Assessments
Full Council Report – 15/7/10
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 Bala Library and for Council Members – copies for Political Groups and in Members Lounge.