

Appendix C

Proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda

Session with Ysgol Felinwnda learners as part of the Objection Period

At a Gwynedd Council Cabinet meeting on 11 July 2023, the Cabinet decided to issue a statutory notice, on the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda on 31 December 2023 in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Schools Organisation Code 011/2018, and the current pupils to transfer to a nearby alternative school, namely Ysgol Bontnewydd or Ysgol Llandwrog, in accordance with parental choice from 1 January 2024.

The statutory consultation was held between 5 September 2023 and 4 October 2023.

The School Organisation Code 011/2018 notes:

In the case of schools where some pupils remain, proposers must make sure that the closure notice is brought to the pupils' attention, that its meaning is made clear to them, and that appropriate steps are taken to enable these pupils to respond to the notice if they so wish. It is essential that pupils are provided with the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process and proposers must ensure that full account is taken of any views they express before a final decision is taken.

In order to do this appropriate documents were prepared for all the learners of Ysgol Felinwnda, and it was arranged that the Head of Ysgol Felinwnda discussed the proposal with the children with the help of an officer from the Modernising Education Team to ensure that they understood what was being proposed in order give the children a chance to express an opinion about the proposal.

It was explained that the change meant:

- *That Ysgol Felinwnda will close on 31 December 2023;*
- *That Ysgol Felinwnda learners will transfer to Ysgol Bontnewydd or Ysgol Llandwrog or another school of choice on 1 January 2024.*

The session was held at Ysgol Felinwnda at 11:00 on Tuesday, 26 September 2023. It included explaining the proposal and holding a discussion regarding the questions within the questionnaire, with an Officer recording the learners' comments.

All learners at Ysgol Felinwnda attended the session, that is 8 children.

Below are the responses received from the learners

NOTE - The comments of the children and young people have been quoted directly from their responses.

1. How do you feel about this?			
School	Happy	Not Sure	Sad
Ysgol Felinwnda	0	0	8
Total	0	0	8

Question 1 - How do you feel about this?

- *Sad – I like this school a lot*
- *Sad – I have been here for long*
- *Really sad – the work is easier here and less people makes it easier*
- *Sad – i really want to stay here longer*
- *Sad – because the school is closing*
- *Sad – because I really want the same friends, but I still want a few more friends*
- *Sad – I won't be able to see my friends*
- *I worry about the building - sad that the building will no longer be a school*
- *I will miss the teachers*
- *I worry about the things (resources) that will be left here*

Question 2 – What would you like to see happen next?

- *Do the same work in the next school*
- *If we go for a walk, to come and see this school (keep in touch)*
- *Sell the school's things*
- *I want to see the tree stay – not cut it down*
- *For the schools to turn into somewhere to help people like a small hospital or an old people's home with carers*
- *I want to know what the school will be next*
- *Make new friends in the next school*

Question 3 – What worries you about this?

- *Not sure what will be happening in the school next*
- *Worry about having to move in case there are nasty people or bullies in the new school*
- *In case the teachers can't get a new job*
- *I will miss the teachers and my friends*
- *Will i be able to do my work as well*
- *If the school doesn't close we would all be happy*
- *If this school gets knocked down and abandoned*
- *Worried about what will be happening to the yard*

Question 4 – What are the important things to you in school?

- *Nice teachers*
- *Friends*
- *No bullies*
- *No nasty teachers*
- *The memories in a school (creating memories)*
- *Pictures of children who have been in the school*
- *It's important for the building to be strong*
- *Safe school – which doesn't go on fire*
- *Making friends quickly*

The Ysgol Felinwnda learner's comments during the session conveyed a tendency towards opposing the proposal to close Ysgol Felinwnda, as they expressed that they were worried about going to another school and the proposal saddens them. Ysgol Felinwnda learners showed a mature understanding of the difficult circumstances and contributed to the discussion with a number of reasons for what they felt and worried about.

Key points from the consultation:

<p>The proposal saddened every learner.</p>
<p>Losing the friendship and the feeling of Ysgol Felinwnda family if attending a new school worries all the pupils.</p>
<p>A number of learners worried about the future of the school building and its contents, and don't want it to be knocked down if Ysgol Felinwnda was to close.</p>
<p>Some learners worried about the support they will receive in a new school if Ysgol Felinwnda were to close.</p>
<p>All Ysgol Felinwnda's learners conveyed that friendly teachers and friends, creating memories together with a safe building and surroundings are the most important things to them in any school.</p>